

Pleasure of
simple gifts

Page 16



More vases for modern flowers

Beijing Dance Forward Festival, formerly known as Beijing Modern Dance Week, is going strong in its third year.

Director Willy Tsao hopes that this year's unfiltered performances will offer more opportunities to the young dancers and choreographers that are often left without a stage after graduating from college.

This year, the festival will present 40 pieces by 23 teams from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The emergence of more non-professional acts is a sign of how this art is prospering on the mainland.

Read more on Pages 12-13



Page 15

Pro tips for smart phone cinema

A Korean director's success at the Berlin International Film Festival proved that – with some smart tips and the right software – mobile phones can serve the aspiring filmmaker quite well. Check out this advice from a Beijing Film Academy professor.



Page 8

Building a green house

Huang Xiaoshan hopes to solve Beijing's trash problems by changing the way China thinks about garbage.

Aging society
may plague
the economy

Page 4

Tourism rush
catches world
off guard

Page 5

Decorated
child speaks
like official

Page 7

Brandnū
charity faces
hard times

Page 10

Ministry pushes ahead on nuclear law

By Yao Weijie

The worldwide legacy of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant leak may be a more careful and comprehensive nuclear power implementation in China.

The government is speeding up its revisions of the Atomic Energy Act, the first draft of which was proposed in 1984, for inclusion in this year's legislative packages.

The act would be the first to spell out required supervision of nuclear radiation and associated safety regulations if passed.

The Fukushima crisis brought a halt to the approval of new nuclear power projects on the mainland pending the passing of a revised act. The Atomic Energy Act is in the draft phases and is expected to open to comments before the end of 2011.

Whereas Europe has suspended all nuclear power development, China has accelerated the construction of nuclear power plants. According to the latest

statistics from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), 56 nuclear power plants are under construction in the world, 21 of which are in China.

The US and UK have had laws regulating the use of atomic energy for 65 years. The lack of nuclear regulations in China left a gaping hole that brought the safety of many of these new nuclear projects into question.

The closest things to an atomic energy law are the Ordinance on the Prevention and Control of Radioactive Pollution and several regulations on civil nuclear safety, radioactive accident management, radiation device safety and power plant emergency plans.

The legal status of these regulations is too low, and they cover too narrow a group of problems.

"We need basic laws to regulate and guide this industry in its early stages. Since the Atomic Energy Act has yet to be passed, there isn't any efficient system to

ensure that nuclear facilities have proper safety controls," said Zheng Yuhui, group leader of Atomic Energy Legislative Research.

There are many reasons for the holes in China's nuclear safety net, said Bao Yunqiao, director of the Academic Committee at the Nuclear Industry Economic Research Center.

China began exploring civilian use of nuclear energy in the 1980s with the establishment of Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station. At that time, the government feared strict laws might strangle the new industry.

At the time, civilian nuclear energy was under the management of the Ministry of Nuclear Industry; however, it was the State Commission of Science and Technology that was assigned to draft nuclear laws. Because the government departments could not reach an agreement, the act was shelved.

In 1998, the newly established

State Commission of Science and Technology for National Defense Industry was placed in charge of the nuclear industry, he said. But the Atomic Energy Act was again shelved during a period of institutional reform.

In 2009, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology passed the legislative burden on to the China Nuclear Energy Association. The crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has jump-started a third round of draft revisions.

The ministry plans to set up an expert panel and a draft group to prepare a final version of the Atomic Energy Act. The groups will have their first meeting at a seminar later this month.

"The new legislation will hold nuclear power operators liable for security and transparency," Zheng said. The law would have to balance the development of nuclear energy with the need for appropriate safety precaution.

City buys into produce markets to rein in prices

By Li Zhixin

The municipal government is considering turning its abandoned boiler rooms and vehicle sheds into vegetable markets and green grocers to help rural farmers sell their vegetables and fruits in urban districts, the Municipal Commission of Commerce announced last Friday.

The commission will work with the Beijing Planning Bureau and Bureau of Industry and Commerce to find out where the city's existing vegetable retail outlets are located and create a plan to expand the network and give farmers access to more venues, said its director Li Weiwei.

Urban consumers have been hit hard by price fluctuations that offered little direct benefit to farmers. The issue made headlines again this week when one impoverished farmer in Shandong Province killed himself upon hearing how the cabbage market collapsed due to overproduction.

To stabilize vegetable prices, the municipal government is also planning to directly invest in vegetable retail markets. It will buy 10 vegetable markets and invest in another five in each of the city's 16 districts to "fundamentally solve the problem of government control over vegetable retailing," Li said.

Li said the municipal government will encourage supermarkets to build direct connections to agricultural bases to expand the scale of direct vegetables and fruit purchases.

Farmers on the outskirts and other provinces will be able to sell their vegetables directly to designated community markets in the central districts to help keep down prices and increase their own profits by cutting out some of the middle men.

Eight major supermarkets allied with several of the municipalities' agricultural bases to boost first-quarter sales volume to 280,000 tons, a 15 percent increase from 2010.

"Experience has shown that a market economy cannot solve all our trade problems. We have seen rampant food safety issues and speculation. The government can have a bigger say in pricing if it invests in the markets," said Weng Ming, an agricultural trade specialist and professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Smoking ban still a long way off

By Han Manman

The municipal government is planning to deploy a new 100-man team to enforce the city's ban on public smoking in response to the new national ban that took effect last Sunday.

The new ban by the Ministry of Health prohibits smoking in public indoor areas and prohibits the placement of cigarette vending machines near public areas. Owners of bars and restaurants would be required to have visible "no-smoking" signs that warn people of the dangers of smoking, and would be required to ask workers to dissuade their clientele from smoking.

World Health Organization (WHO) statistics peg the number of Chinese smokers at 300 million, 1.2 million of whom die from smoking-related diseases each year.

To put that in perspective, one in five smoking-related deaths worldwide occurs in China.

The Ministry of Health estimated that 740 million people are exposed to secondhand smoke at restaurants, bars and workplaces.

Seeing the new regulation as an opportunity to crack down on local smokers, the Beijing Health Inspection Institute is looking to the city government to expand its team of no-smoking enforcers, said Li Yajing, chief of the institute.

Li did not say what the enforcers would be empowered to do, saying the announcement of concrete procedures would come later.

While some view the ban as an important step to finally crack down on smoking, experts said the ban is likely to be ignored by both smokers and the operators of public venues.

"I don't think the new ban will



Few expect the government's new "ban" to deter China's huge group of smokers.

work," said Xu Yonghua, a local IT worker. He said people would find a way to avoid paying the fines – assuming the new "ban" even imposes a fine. Current rules prohibiting smoking in public places are widely ignored.

"Unless China passes a national law to prohibit smoking and that law spells out severe punishments for anyone who breaks the ban, the current situation will not change at all," he said.

A national law on tobacco control has long been missing. Smoking is most strictly banned by government regulation in hos-

pitals, schools and in public, but even in these venues the ban is rarely enforced.

China already missed its January 9 deadline to ban indoor smoking at public venues as part of its obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Smoking is almost a national pastime in China, where offering a cigarette is still the first step in forming friendships in the countryside. Cigarette cartons are commonly exchanged as gifts, and modern wedding ceremonies often require brides to distribute and light cigarettes for all the

men at the ceremony.

Although a real smoking ban seems impossible, China may be able to learn something from other countries that instituted successful bans.

Ireland was one of the first countries that went smoke-free. Anyone caught smoking in a prohibited location faces fines of up to €3,000.

In Uruguay, bars and restaurants which ignore the smoking ban can face a closure of up to three days and serious fines.

In Iran, smokers have been barred from holding high-level government jobs since 2010.

CFP Photo

Top philanthropist tangled in fraud accusations

By Xinji Letu

Chen Guangbiao, the renowned philanthropist famous for his high-profile approach to charity, said the recent censure for his charitable behavior was a blow to altruism.

China Business Journal, a Beijing-based newspaper, said in a report that some of Chen's 2010 donations were either fake or questionable. The report was carried by many other media groups across the country.

Two reporters with the journal said they investigated Chen's major charitable activities in 2010 and found that some recipients' names appeared fabricated.

In response to the accusations, Chen, 42, president of Jiangsu Huangpu Recycling Resources Company, provided the receipts and paperwork from past donations during an interview broadcast last Monday on China Central Television.

Chen said the incident served only to damage the burgeoning charity industry.

"If they keep doing this, no one in China will want to do charity work," Chen said during the interview.

Reporters with the journal countered that public figures should be open to oversight, and that "any donation must face public scrutiny."

Unlike Zhang Ziyi and other

celebrities who have been caught up in accusations of donation fraud, Chen has enjoyed wide support.

Director Feng Xiaogang posted six messages on his Sina microblog in support of Chen. "It is unfair that donors are attacked repeatedly and forced to show evidence of their innocence. It seems that donating money is like committing a crime," he wrote.

"As long as Chen has not used his charity work to gain economic or political leverage at the expense of poor people, we should be kind to him – even if he likes to show off or brag," said Yu Jianrong, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Honesty may be important but you cannot use vanity alone to paint him as a hypocrite. China has many people who are richer than Chen, but how much have they donated?" Yu said.

Many of Chen supporters say his acts benefit the poor, and that to question that only discourages other would-be donors. Chen said he worried that the negative reports could cause millions of willing donors second-guess their altruism.

But many critics insist that transparency is essential to philanthropy, and that credibility is more important than charity.

As the country's "top philanthropist," a "role model of morality" and leader of Chinese



Chen Guangbiao's flamboyant approach to charity is bringing him unwanted scrutiny.

IC Photo

philanthropy, Chen certainly should be subject to oversight, one commentator said.

Chen was reported as one of the most generous givers in China according to Hurun Research

Institute. Last year, when Bill Gates and Warren Buffett came to China calling on the rich to give, Chen pledged to donate all his money when he dies.

The 42-year-old has long been

criticized for his high-profile manner of donation, preferring to press bills directly into the hands of the needy rather than leaving distribution up to established charities.

20 percent of working women face sexual harassment

By Chu Meng

One in five of China's female workers have been the victim of sexual harassment or bullying in the workplace during the past two years, according to survey results released Monday at the first China Forum for Preventing Harassment in the Workplace.

The survey, conducted by the School of Law at Peking University and Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Counseling and Service Center, said sexual harassment remains disturbingly common.

Almost 20 percent of the 1,837 interviewees – 37 percent of whom were men – sampled from a dozen companies in Beijing and the provinces of Guangdong, Jiangsu and Hebei said they had been sexually harassed while at work during the past several years.

Another 24 percent said they had heard of or witnessed the sexual harassment of colleagues.

Female employees in second-tier cities were the most likely to suffer harassment,



Many airlines provide anti-harassment training to their flight attendants.

CFP Photo

with 37 percent reporting personal incidents.

The findings were published by the counseling center in preparation for a national campaign against workplace harassment and bullying, set to begin in June under the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

Guo Jianmei, director of the counseling center, said the one-

month campaign is aimed at persuading female employers to combat bullying and harassment among their fellow workers.

"Harassment is most common among women seeking to advance their economic position or place in the company. The higher the promotion they see, the more harassment they are willing to endure," she said.

Harassment affected as many as 40 to 60 percent of the women overall, Guo said. "I believe there are still many female interviewees who keep their harassment secret even on these questionnaires," Guo said.

The center compiled a manual for 15 company representatives at the conference to warn women employees about how to prevent sexual harassment, listing 10 definitions for the term, such as unwanted ogling, suggestive gestures or language, intentional invasion of one's personal space and outright sexual solicitation via phone or mail.

Others examples included explicit language, suggestions to trade sex for favors, obscene gestures, unwanted touching and rape.

Six companies established their own systems to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace.

"We hope their proactive example can serve to encourage the drafting of new laws against sexual harassment in the workplace," Guo said.

Although the Law to Protect the Rights and Interests of

Women prohibits sexual harassment, it doesn't define the term or what kind of evidence should be considered by courts hearing a harassment case, said Liu Ying, a professor at the School of Law at Peking University.

"Given how unenforceable the law is, most women are left to endure harassment or quit. Companies need to establish their own systems to prevent sexual harassment and maintain employee confidentiality," she said.

Combating harassment may also help companies eager to show off their commitment to social responsibility, she said.

Recent years have also seen male workers falling victim to sexual harassment: 3 percent of male employees reported being harassed and bullied by a female boss.

"Due to Chinese tradition, these men are even more vulnerable. Many of them keep silent about what goes on at the workplace, but bottling up that resentment for too long may one day result in violent retribution," Liu said.

Population balance tips toward elders

Will the aging demographic impair China's economy?

By Huang Daohen

There is no question about it: China is getting older.

The recent national census showed an extreme drop in youth population and forecast workforce shrink to begin as early as 2013. When that day arrives, the country's reign as the world's factory – a boom engine of economic growth driven by cheap and ample labor – will be over.

In its place will be a new array of challenges associated with rapid aging. The big question now is how these challenges will affect the economy, and whether investors should shift their bets to India, the world's next largest population – and much younger population.



A shrinking birthrate has thrown China's population severely out of balance.

Wang Yi/IC Photo

Divided views over childbirth

Walking between the downtown skyscrapers of the Central Business District, 33-year-old Xu Jingquan looks no different from any other Beijinger.

The sales manager of a local printing and packaging company, Xu dresses in a smart business suit, speaks with a Beijing accent and uses the noble-sounding English name "Charles."

Wednesday is busy as usual for Xu. He meets two clients and picks up his wife, a bank accountant, on his drive home.

But after entering the couple's rented apartment in Jiugong, Daxing District and seeing two kids come running and calling "Mommy and daddy," one can tell he is not local.

Due to the current policy, couples at Xu's age usually have one child: or none.

"We are a big *beipiao* family," Xu says, using a phrase referring to those who don't have Beijing hukou but live and work in the city. "I chose to live in the remote suburbs so my wife could give birth to a second child," he says.

Three years ago, Xu had his daughter Wenwen. Jie, his son, is 6 years old.

Xu, originally from Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, has worked and lived in Beijing for more than a decade. He dreams of sending his children to study abroad.

While the work and education environment attracts many like Xu to Beijing, not everyone wants to stay in a metropolis.

Jiang Shan, a 29-year-old who has worked as a public servant in Beijing for three years, plans to flee the city. His destination is Wuhan, his hometown.

"I have no reason to stay because the house prices are too high. I can

afford a mortgage loan for an apartment in Wuhan that would leave me flat broke in Beijing," says Jiang, who married last year.

Like Jiang, more and more relatively better-off people are heading for second-tier cities like Chengdu and Wuhan to escape the traffic, stress and high cost of living.

But Jiang and his wife have decided to put off childbearing. "It's not because of the money. It is just because that we are not prepared to become parents," he says.

Aging society

For most of the last decade, the government sat mystified as to China's true childbirth situation, and the census results released last Thursday presented it with more new challenges than answers.

Though there are some couples who, like Xu, want to have more babies, the census shows that the number of young people is plummeting.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, which released the results, the under-14 population fell to less than 17 percent from 23 percent in 2000; the population between the ages of 15 and 59 fell 2 percent; and the number of seniors older than 60 grew to more than 13 percent of the total.

Based on the results, the Asian Development Bank forecast that seniors will account for a third of the population by 2050, and the workforce will feel a contraction as soon as 2013.

If that happens, the national economy could be in serious trouble, says Wen Yi, an economist at Renmin University of China.

Wen says the aging population will create new pressure to pay out pensions and will leave many jobs short on labor, forcing age hikes

and inflation, which together would destroy the competitiveness of Chinese manufacturing.

China or India?

India, the world's second most populous nation, also released a decennial census in late March. The country's population grew three times faster than China's in the past decade, the census says.

Though urbanizing at a slower rate, India has an up-and-coming youth population that will be working until at least 2035, giving it a massive edge. If employed, they could contribute to GDP growth and create a new market, Bloomberg reported.

On which is a global investor to bet? Wen says both.

Wen says both nations face different challenges and neither has a uniform advantage.

"While India's youth population will create a massive bulge in the workforce, its lagging infrastructure will be a major issue for the Indian government," he says.

Better education

Sa Hongzhi, demographic sociologist at Beijing Normal University, says a better-educated workforce is crucial for China's continued success as the population ages.

Sa says the country's growth will transform from an export-led model to focus on domestic consumption, and become a technology-intensive economy. That will require more skilled and educated workers, she says.

But while demographic trends demand attention, Sa says what really counts is how a country copes with the changes and adjusts.

Sa says both China and India have vast advantages in their economies. "If they can use these advantages to improve, there is no need for an investor to bet on which is better," she says.

Other highlights of 6th census

Mainland hits 1.3397 billion

The country's population had increased to 1.37 billion, including 1.3397 billion on the mainland. Of the total population on the mainland, men accounted for 51.27 percent, while women made up 48.73 percent.

593,832 foreigners

A total of 593,832 foreigners were living on the Chinese mainland at the end of 2010. It is the first time the country has included foreigners who stayed on the mainland for at least three months in its decennial census.

According to the census, the top three countries of origin were South Korea, the US and Japan.

Among them, 56.62 percent, or 336,245, were males and 43.38 percent, or 257,587, were females, it showed. Business and study were the major reasons for their residence.

College grads double

College-educated Chinese more than doubled on the mainland over the past decade. The number expanded to 8,930 among every 100,000 people in 2010 from the figure of 3,611 in the previous 2000 census, according to the data.

About 119.6368 million Chinese on the mainland had a college education, the data shows.

Some 4.08 percent of Chinese on the mainland are illiterate, down 2.64 percentage points from the 2000 figure.

19.6 million in Beijing

Beijing has about 19.61 million residents, including people with registered residency and migrants staying in the city for more than six months.

The city's residents made up 1.46 percent of the total population.

Beijing has the third largest population, after Chongqing and Shanghai among the four municipalities that include Tianjin.

Prepare for the Chinese tourists

China is poised to become the world's second-largest tourism market in the next two years, but is the world ready for the flood of Chinese travelers? According to a new study from the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the answer is no.

According to BCG's projections, China's combined domestic and international tourism revenues are expected to increase 14 percent annually for the next nine years, creating a 5.5-trillion-yuan tourism market.

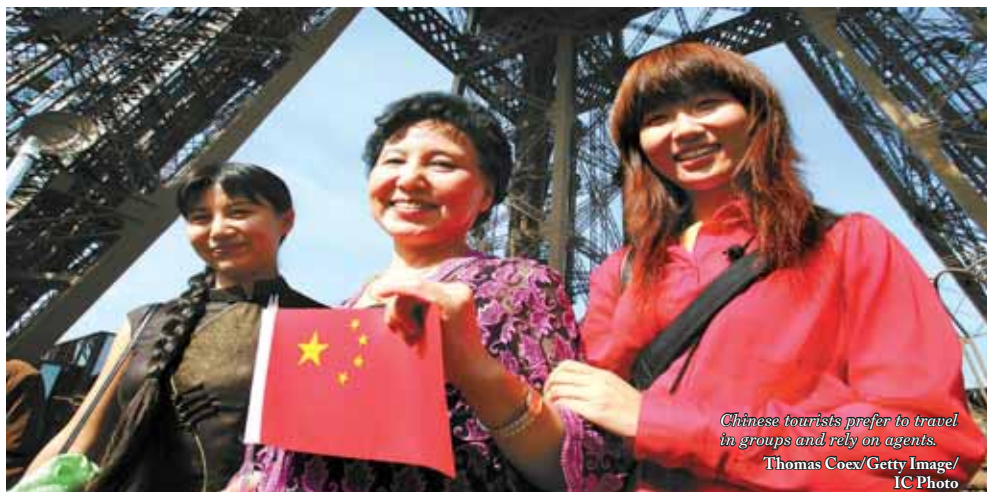
Despite the eye-popping numbers, the research group says few companies in or outside the country have equipped themselves to cater to the swelling crowds of Chinese voyagers.

Unlike in other markets – where previous trips and word of mouth often help people decide on honeymoon destinations and plan summer vacations – Chinese rely heavily on travel agents and tour packages. When they do branch out on their own, the study finds, they tend to stick to hotel names they know and restaurants they've heard of.

And unlike Western travelers, who think of staying in a hotel as an experience unto itself, Chinese typically see hotels as a place to sleep for the night, BCG says.

Developing the ability to accommodate Chinese travelers may have recently become even more urgent, at least in certain markets.

(Agencies)



Chinese tourists prefer to travel in groups and rely on agents.

Thomas Coex/Getty Image/IC Photo

The third eye

By Li Zhixin

"Traveling to Europe with a travel agency is a very wise choice for most Chinese tourists, as once they meet risk, they can figure out how to overcome it as a group," said Wei Wensheng, a senior tour guide in Beijing U-tour Company.

More and more Chinese people would like to travel abroad, but since they are accustomed to using cash instead of credit cards, they're popular targets for pickpockets, Wei said.

"The public order in France, Italy, Austria and Switzerland is

Security concern makes Chinese tour with agencies

particularly bad," he said. "Tour guides usually introduce the background and history of scenic spots in advance, when we are approaching on the bus, because we don't want our members to be distracted while on foot and have something stolen."

Wei said what is even more exasperating is that security personnel in some scenic spots and historical sites turn a blind eye to thieves.

"In Louvre, they must know these repeat offenders, but they never take steps to prevent these

guys from thieving," Wei said. "Even if a pickpocket is arrested, the punishment is very light."

Usually, reporting a thief to the police ends up going nowhere.

"Although European countries have many good tourism resources, they don't value Chinese tourists who can contribute a great deal to their economic growth," Wei said. "If European countries want to attract more tourists from China, they should think about how to seriously improve their social order."

Language is another big bar-

rier that compels Chinese tourists to travel with agencies.

"Chinese tourists don't like to be anxious while on the road; they want things like hotel reservation and restaurant selection to be arranged," Wei said. "Of course, the price of traveling to Europe with an agency (about 13,800 yuan for two weeks) is also appealing to them."

Although Chinese people are often seen in tour groups, it doesn't mean some – especially young people – don't like traveling alone.

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Boom or doom?

Is Dr. Doom right on China's bad growth bet?

Talk of a China slowdown is becoming commonplace. Nouriel Roubini, the New York University economist who predicted the financial crisis, said the nation is poised for a sharp slowdown as early as 2013, but some analysts say that outlook may be too negative.

Win McNamee/Getty Image/CFP Photo

Dr. Doom bearish on China

Writing in *The Korea Herald* on April 21, in a piece entitled "China's growth strategy is a bad bet," Nouriel Roubini said his recent visit to China has led him to believe the economy is overheating.

He too cited over-investment as a concern, calling commercial and high-end residential investment "excessive."

Roubini also questioned whether the nationwide network of bullet trains, some of which are already completed, will reduce the need for the 45 planned new airports.

"No country can be productive enough to reinvest 50 percent of its GDP in new capital stock without eventually facing immense overcapacity and a staggering non-performing loan problem," Roubini wrote.

Once the economy can no longer sustain new fixed investment, which is likely sometime after 2013, "China is poised for a sharp slowdown," he said.

But Bank of America-Merrill Lynch took issue with Roubini's conclusion, and said the investing guru had a less-than-stellar record on forecasting China.

"[Roubini] is not a new China bear if we track his forecasting records," said Merrill economist Ting Lu in a note.

"It's a bit confusing to us as to why Dr. Doom's call on China is so widespread and influential," he said in a recent note.

Lu said Roubini's forecasts in

April 2009 turned out to be wide off the mark, pegging growth at 5 percent for the fiscal year, compared to actual growth of 9.2 percent. Revised forecasts given later also missed, though the margin of error was narrower, according to Merrill data.

Roubini is making another forecasting error by underestimating the consumers' appetite, Lu said.

"A decline in fixed-asset investment could be offset by rising consumption," said Lu.

China continues to need billions in new investment to bring its infrastructure in line with other developed nations, Lu said. Among the latest sectors in focus is the nation's electrical-power grid, which is slated for 2.6 trillion yuan (\$400 billion) in new investment in the five years through 2015.

Lu also cited a recent International Monetary Fund report which said the mainland Chinese economy could overtake the US in terms of purchasing parity terms by 2016.

Citigroup analysts agreed investors were being too cynical.

In research released on Monday, Citi said the investors were shifting away from Asian equities in an effort to reduce risk, even as evidence mounts that stocks are undervalued.

"The wall of worry is alive and well," wrote Citi analysts, headed by Markus Rosgen in Hong Kong.

Corporate earnings were on average above 2007 highs, while

stocks' price-to-earnings ratios remain below levels at that time, according to data that tracked Asian equities, excluding those in Japan.

Regional stock indexes were also significantly below highs seen at the time, Citi said.

"It has become increasing popular to discuss the extent of overinvestment in China," wrote Samsung Securities analysts headed by Viktor Shvets late last week.

Citing the rising frequency of doomsday predictions on China's housing market, Shvets conceded that unoccupied apartment blocks and other examples of overbuilding can be found across China. But he urged they be considered in context.

Investors focused too much on the blemishes of wasteful investment and fail to see the wider perspective, he said.

"It is becoming a competitive sport amongst a select group of hedge-fund managers to track the number of empty office blocks or to assess at which stage current gross fixed formation will lead to collapse in Chinese growth rates," said Shvets.

World Bank weighs in

Concerns that China's economy could be on the verge of a shakeout were cited by the World Bank last week.

The Washington-based institution said that it viewed China's property market "a particular source of risk," and that a sharp downturn could rip through the

economy, knocking a banking system heavily exposed to real-estate lending, while also putting at risk jobs in the steel and cement industries.

The warning appeared in World Bank's quarterly outlook report on China, even as the same report upwardly raised its estimate for China's growth this year to 9.7 percent from its earlier estimate of 8.7 percent.

Samsung Securities' Shvets took issue with the World Bank's conclusions, arguing that China's housing stock remains in short supply compared to its needs. Viewed differently, China's housing market doesn't appear to be a bubble at all, he said.

Investment capital sunk into apartments and infrastructure has soared in the last seven years, but the figures are misleading because China is really just catching up after two centuries of under-investment, he said.

Shvets uses a measure known as capital stock to gauge the scale of investment on a per-capita basis, taking into account the size of the economy. China's average capital stock is \$14,000 per person, levels he that are well within norms.

Adjusted for differences in the underlying costs, he estimates China's optimum level of capital stock could be as high as \$30,000 per capita.

"There is scant evidence of either over-investment or margin compression," Shvets said.

(Agencies)

Dating site Jiayuan joins Nasdaq fever

By Huang Daohen

A new round of dotcom fever is being led by the online dating agency Jiayuan.

The company, launched by a Fudan University student in 2003, applied on April 20 for an initial public offering (IPO) in the US.

It is the latest IPO in a series of China's Internet and social networking companies to apply for a US listing. The past several months saw the Facebook clone Renren, Internet security provider Qihoo 360, online video site Youku and e-commerce giant Dangdang getting listed on the Nasdaq.

Jiayuan said it operates the largest online dating service with more than 40 million registered clients. The company is expected to trade on Nasdaq under the name DATE.

It aims to raise \$100 million (650 million) with its IPO, the statement said.

Not all the potential US investors are optimistic about the new round of investment fever, fearing these Chinese companies may be exporting a new dotcom bubble.

Wen Yijun, an industrial analyst with Oriental Securities in Beijing, said the sudden boom is not a coincidence.

"There is a reason behind the IPO rush," he said.

Citing a recent study by Oriental Securities, Wen said the global financial crisis in 2009 changed the landscape of the financial industry. Wall Street investors have shifted their focus from traditional favorites like Google and Apple.

New sites like Youku and Renren are attractive alternatives in the global media landscape, Wen said. "Once you re-brand a website like Renren as 'China's Facebook,' it becomes a favorite."

Of course, having a backing of 457 million Chinese Internet users doesn't hurt. The potential user base is staggering to many US investors, given their country's total population of 308 million.

Likewise, Wen said dating pressure among Chinese youths has made Wall Street keen to embrace Jiayuan's IPO.

The country has millions of singles who are looking online to find love – men especially. According to research by Jiayuan's competitor Baihe, the country currently has 180 million bachelors, half of whom look for love online.

To investors, these numbers mean big business, Wen said. Singles spent an estimated \$150 million last year on online dating services.

Schoolboy as bureaucrat?

By Zhang Dongya

A 13-year-old student named Huang Yibo became an Internet sensation recently for showing an enthusiasm for politics that belies his age. Many criticized his parents' educational method, with education specialists calling for people to diversify their learning.

Huang is a first-year middle school student in Hubei Province. His many honors include National Excellent Juvenile, Hundred Excellent Youth in China and Top Ten Young Pioneers.

It's been reported that he began watching CCTV news broadcasts at 2 years old. Eventually he insisted on reading newspapers every day, such as *People's Daily* and *Caobao Xiaoxi*, or *Reference News*, a daily newspaper published by Xinhua News Agency.

So far, he has published more than 100 articles in newspapers and magazines. He used the money from the articles – about 3,000 yuan – and money from selling waste materials to help his family's elderly members.

In a photo that was originally posted on Huang's blog and has since become widely disseminated, Huang is shown reading in front of a sign that asks students to set a good example for the school. The caption reads: "Huang Yibo is reading a document after his election as commander in chief of the Young Pioneers in Wuhan."

His blog has received more than 1 million visits.

In another photo, Huang stands with two other boys his age, with the caption: "Huang Yibo is with colleagues in the headquarters of Young Pioneers in Wuhan." The boy in the picture appears far more mature than his peers. The captions on all the photos on his blog strike a dry, bureaucratic tone.

The family deleted the photos and articles on the blog and opened a microblog requesting people leave their child alone after the onslaught of attention.



Huang Yibo
Zhan Jun/IC Photo

Comment

A farce

This whole thing, including media coverage and netizens' criticism, is like a farce. It is unfair for the teenage boy. The earliest report about Huang Yibo appeared in 2009, focusing on his benevolence to the elderly. But when his story emerged on microblogs several days ago, people began to criticize and mock him excessively.

Every child has different interests and sources of happiness. Not every

child should have to enjoy watching cartoons or playing games. We have no right to impose ourselves on him.

– Guo Qin, critic in Wuhan

Don't grow up too fast

Each family has its own educational method. However, it's not appropriate to expect too much from a child when he is young. Still, we can't say it's wrong to let a 2-year-old child watch CCTV news; it just may be better for the child's development to watch children's pro-

gramming instead.

– Fan Xianzuo, professor at Central China Normal University

Keep children away from bureaucracy

Seeing a child with an official look, official words and official tone is really disheartening. His father has influenced the boy too much. He's been calling the boy's friends his "colleagues." Why set that tone for children?

– Terry Yin, sales in Beijing

Will the real plum village please stand up?

By Zhao Hongyi

Pan Zhiyi was only 16 when he read the ancient Chinese erotic novel *Jin Ping Mei*, or *The Plum in the Golden Vase*. Now 60, Pan has spent a half-century studying the stories in the novel and trying to find the real people behind the fictionalized characters.

The pornographic novel describes official corruption, social injustice and sex – lots of sex. The novel was written by an anonymous author or authors in the late 16th century.

Pan lives in Xixinan Village in Huangshan, Anhui Province. His study led him to believe that the stories in the novel were actually based very close to – if not actually in – his village. Some of the families currently living in the village today also told him passed-down family tales that strongly resembled those in the book.

Pan's discoveries were praised by officials in his village, town and county, who began construction of a *Jin Ping Mei* Park in 2004. They expected to attract tourists and earn money from the park, which opened in 2006.

Their action was part of a strategy adopted by many officials in smaller counties and central provinces who search desperately for ways of attracting visitors.

For instance, there are several

Du Fu Cottages scattered around China – named after the famous 9th century poet – since his actual birthplace remains a mystery.

Xixinan Village also isn't the only place that claims to be the setting of the novel. As early as 10 years ago, villages in neighboring Henan and Shandong provinces said they were the inspiration for the stories.

But it was Xixinan that was highlighted in an article in the *Washington Post* last month.

The theme park made news for its high-profile closures and reopenings. A year and a half ago, the park shut down because investors pulled out after officials were found guilty of taking bribes.

Pan said the park's failure was not only one of business, but of morality.

Ma Wansheng, the village's new party secretary, said while he supports the park as a tourist destination, he wants it to have nothing to do with the original book.

The controversies have been too much for Pan and his family to bear.

Pan's wife complained to reporters that her husband spent every last coin on his study of the novel. "We're poor enough that we don't want to be involved in such a stupid matter any longer," she said.

Comment

Learn from their mistakes

All the problems are caused by the villagers' lack of understanding of the novel. If officials knew what the book was about, maybe they wouldn't have been so hasty in deciding to build the park – and if they learned the lessons of the book, maybe they would've been less corrupt.

– Christopher Parker, expat in Beijing

Authentic?

Jin Ping Mei is a very complicated book, but the decision to build the park was so simple! They made the decision based on the private discovery of a villager. I can imagine the park now: a bunch of ancient houses with signs on it saying it's where so-and-so from the book lived.

We need a system of authenticating these claims. Promoting an area is important, but not at the expense of reality.

– Wang Jun, professor, Peking University



Xixinan's Jin Ping Mei Park was shut down in 2007 amid controversy.
CFP Photo

The process is near-sighted

Village officials, theme park investors and villagers all want their share of the pie rather than to take a serious look into developing the local economy in a long-term and sustainable way.

There is too much crime, irony, comedy and tragedy in our developing economies.

– Yang Jinwen, engineer, EDF France

I support the villagers!

I appreciate Pan's persistence and insistence on what he discovered. The idea of building the theme park is also worth a try. We Chinese people have been poor for too long, and we are seeking any way possible to develop something that is worth checking out.

– Rong Jie, senior engineer, Sukuda Industrial, Suzhou Station

Local man out to change the way we treat trash

By Annie Wei

Last week, the Beijing Municipal Administration Committee drafted a household garbage regulation and posted it online (bjrd.gov.cn) to solicit public suggestions. The draft noted that every resident should be responsible for reducing and classifying waste, as well as paying for their own waste disposal.

Companies and individuals were also asked to avoid using unrecyclable products.

Waste management has become a tough civil project. According to the committee, Beijing produces 18,000 tons of kitchen waste every day.

The city currently has 27 garbage disposal factories, and under the 11th Five-Year Plan, 17 more will be created. But without responsible civil action, that may not be enough.



Huang's proposal will benefit thousands of migrant garbage collectors.

CFP Photo



The Beijing government organized a trip to Japan to learn how to improve garbage disposal.

Free garbage bins and bags

In 2009, the Beijing government enacted a garbage classification trial project in 600 residential communities.

In the past, residents simply dumped trash into one of two big barrels, labeled "recyclable" and "non-recyclable." The new project improved on this system.

Each family was given two standard bins and garbage bags and encouraged to separate kitchen waste from paper, batteries and plastic. The kitchen waste was to be collected in a green garbage bag, where it would be delivered to a nearby plant and converted into organic fertilizer.

This year, the government plans to distribute free bins and garbage bags in another 1,200 communities.

But despite the government's good intentions, many environ-

mentally concerned residents said the project isn't working.

Sun Xiaoping, who rented an apartment at Taiyue Suites on Sanlitun Nan Lu, got a phone call from her landlord one day and was asked to pick up a garbage bin from the property management office.

"I had no idea what it was about," Sun said. The office gave her a small green bin, telling her, "Each household should have two, but since your apartment is small, one will do."

"I already had a big garbage bin, and this small one was useless," Sun said.

Another resident, Sun Hao, who lives in Xicheng District, said many of her neighbors aren't familiar with the concept of garbage classification. Garbage is garbage: they all go into the same bins.

Lawyer-turned-garbage crusader

Not everyone is standing idly. Huang Xiaoshan, 49, a well-off former lawyer, is on the front lines of the fight for disposal decorum. Since February 2011, he's been leading a self-created company that acts as an intermediary between residents and government trash collection agencies.

In a coffee shop in Nüren Jie, Huang looks the part of the environmental activist: slim, tanned, with purple-dyed hair and white-frame glasses, a rosy colored tight T-shirt and tattered jeans. The only accessory that suggests Huang is a man of means – and one with real clout – is his LV belt.

Huang said he got involved in 2009, when he joined protesters to fend off plans to build a landfill in Napa Valley in Xiaotangshan, where he lives. Last year, he joined officials and experts on a trip to Japan, sponsored by the local government, to learn about garbage disposal. CCTV, Phoenix TV and Beijing Evening News were among

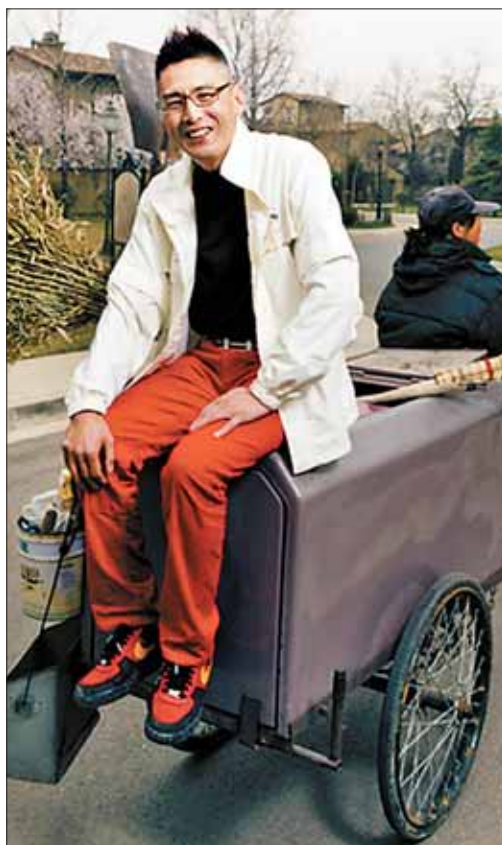
the media outlets that identified Huang as a leader in the grassroots garbage disposal campaign.

Impressed by Japan's advanced trash disposal technology and its citizenry's awareness of garbage classification, Huang couldn't help but wonder why garbage classification was so difficult for his neighbors back home.

"Garbage classification is not a technological issue; instead, it's a concept," he said. It's a process that both the government and citizens must take time to learn.

Huang said he travels abroad every year and notices Chinese people act differently at home and abroad. "They don't honk their horns, spit or jaywalk [in foreign places] like they do here," he said.

He concluded that garbage classification first needs to be drafted into law so that people are forced to take responsibility for their actions. Last year he came up with the slogan: "No garbage classification, no disposal."



Huang Xiaoshan gave up his law license to register a company to improve garbage disposal.

"Green house"

Huang faces an uphill battle. Relying on volunteers and old hutong residents to spread the word – or pamphlets and slogans – isn't enough.

"Garbage classification is an eclectic system, consisting of classification, collection, transportation and disposal," he said.

Then there's this: the waste from Chinese families is different from that from many other countries. Chinese cooks use lots of fresh vegetables and a variety of oils and ingredients. As a result, 65 percent of household waste is liquid.

"Of the 18,000 tons of household garbage produced every day, 12,000 tons is kitchen waste and 8,000 tons is liquid," Huang said.

Beijing has a limited number of landfills, and the amount of trash that's produced puts a lot of stress on garbage trucks.

In January, Huang proposed

a "green house" project to the government, basically suggesting garbage be sorted according to "wet" or "dry."

"My basic idea was that each community build a 10-square-meter house, painted green, where garbage is separated," Huang said.

His proposal is practical on many levels. For example, it would recruit many migrant garbage collectors into the system. A green house would help the economy, too: residents would stand to make 0.18 to 0.20 yuan for selling aluminum cans of soft drinks.

Huang said he and his friends did not think the government would take the proposal seriously, but after Spring Festival, he got a call from Deng Jun, vice director of the solid waste department of Beijing Municipal Administration Committee.

The future of garbage collection?

Since February, Huang has been working on his green house project. To register his company – Lushidan – Huang had to give up his law license.

Huang's first step was to find a machine that could effectively sort wet and dry garbage. His project attracted many companies' interest – "I have talked with more than 30 environmental companies and visited quite a few," Huang said – but few have impressed him.

"A lot of companies are not doing this out of concern for the environment," Huang said. "They just want to make money. And the technology and machinery they're offering doesn't do the job."

He said he might just design one himself.

Huang was confident that with a team, he can begin installing these green houses and sorting trash this month. He gets many emails every day from people who are excited about his project and willing to volunteer.

But even if the infrastructure gets put into place, there is still the human problem. The task of convincing people to buy into his work is daunting – it includes distributing brochures, educating people and collecting data about each household's garbage output.

Huang is beginning a long journey, but at least he's willing to wade into the marshes.



Assorted garbage bins in Japan

Photos provided by Huang Xiaoshan

See you, ambassador Huntsman

By Han Manman

Days after returning from Beijing, former US Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman has moved one step closer to vying for his country's presidency.

Reuters reported Huntsman formed a political action committee on Tuesday to raise money, hire staff and travel ahead of an expected 2012 Republican presidential bid.

"This is an organizational step, this is not an announcement," Reuters quoted Tim Miller, the spokesman of the new committee, as saying. "This will allow him to travel the country and support Republicans. When and if he is ready to make an announcement, he will make it."

Before leaving Beijing last Saturday, Huntsman told *South-eastern Weekly* that he will use some weeks or months to carefully consider his future plans for private life and career when he returns to the US.

He said any decision he would make would be in his family's

best interests.

Huntsman said he thought his 20 months in China was a reasonable time to be away from his family back home.

"Two years apart from some of my family members is an extremely big challenge and pain for my wife," Huntsman said.

The Chinese-speaking 51-year-old was appointed in 2009 by Obama as the US' top envoy to Beijing.

For most Chinese, Huntsman is a unique ambassador: he has been spotted riding his Forever brand bicycle to work and even to official meetings at the foreign ministry; he was also spotted cruising through the streets of Shanghai on a Harley-Davidson; he is often seen talking with local people in the streets and eating local food at small restaurants, and he also adopted a Chinese girl.

Last Thursday, the US embassy uploaded a photo onto its official Sina microblog showing Huntsman saying his good-byes to colleagues. Huntsman

said he was grateful for what has been done for a healthy Sino-US relationship.

The photo immediately received comments from hundreds of Chinese netizens. Many also left their regards to Huntsman.

"Although Huntsman only stayed in China for two years, he impressed me with his humanizing diplomatic ways. I'm so curious about what status he will have when he comes to China next time," said netizen Pin Guozi.

"I really love the photo of Huntsman riding his bike on the street with his cool jacket and sunglasses. Will he still keep the habit of riding bikes while in the US?" another netizen wrote.

Last month Obama nominated Commerce Secretary Gary Locke to be the next US ambassador to China, saying that no one was better qualified for the key diplomatic post.

Locke was the first Chinese-American governor in the US, serving as governor of Washington from 1997 to 2005.



Many Chinese people think Huntsman was a very unique ambassador. IC Photo

Finnish ambassador introduces classical choir to local audience

By Chu Meng

Finnish ambassador Lars Backstrom presented the oldest Finnish-language choir, the Ylioppilaskunnan Laulajat (YL) Male Voice Choir, to a Chinese audience as part of his official residence in Beijing on Wednesday evening.

This was a warm-up for the choir's first China tour, which includes concerts at two important music festivals: Meet in Beijing International Music Festival and Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, which began yesterday.

Four songs performed by the choir were entirely in Finnish, with lyrics adapted from tra-

ditional Finnish poems or folk tales. Two soloists, Paivi Nisula, a bright-voiced soprano, and Hannu Niemela, a powerful baritone, impressed the audience.

The concert tour, under the patronage of Finnish President Tarja Halonen, will also swing by other southern cities including Suzhou, Wuxi, Nanjing and Shenzhen during this month.

Chief artistic director and conductor Pasi Hyokki hosted the event and said the concert program will form a selection of international and Finnish choral music, including pieces by Carl Orff, Jean Sibelius and Einojuhani Rautavaara.

"For people in my country, the YL choir has been seen as 'The Voice of Finnishness,'" Backstrom said.

He said the choir was founded in Helsinki University in 1883 by Fredrik Pacius, who had served as the university's music teacher from 1835 and had an especially positive impact on Finland's musical scene.

When a national awakening brought forth a language dispute, Finnish-speaking societies aspired to emphasize national identity, including language. "The founding of the choir in 1883 happened at a time when the Finnish language was for the first time widely recognized as an official language,

and the Finnish language school system and press began developing quickly," Backstrom said.

In supporting the national movement in its early years, the choir vigorously engaged in promoting the ideology of Finnishness and heightened the patriotic mood with its songs.

Today, the choir still continues its independent and versatile work. Its cultural merits, long history of concerts, world tours and numerous critically acclaimed recordings have established the choir as one of the most prominent male choirs in the world.

Conductor Hyokki said that the Finnish music and the YL choir are of roughly the same age. The choir's 10th anniversary concert in 1893 was actually the first concert given entirely in the Finnish language in the country at that time.

"The Finnish song was released from the shackles of tradition and suddenly rang in the air independent and renewed, free and energetic. The musical art shook hands with the young singers and struck tones never before heard in this country," Backstrom said, citing a comment from one Finnish paper.

French artists given grant to live and work in Beijing

By Zhang Dongya

Three French artists were chosen by the Association of Yishu 8 in Paris as the part of an inaugural program that brings French artists to live and work in Beijing.

Five people in the fields of economics and art, including Christine Cayol, the curator of Yishu 8 Gallery, founded the Association of Yishu 8 in Paris last December.

The association's first act was to create the Yishu 8 Prize, to be awarded to three French artists each year. These artists are given the opportunity to live in Beijing for three months and let the city's energy feed their creativity.

"China has become the second largest economic power in the world and attracts many enterprises and cooperative partners," Cayol said. It has also become a cultural melting pot with a large number of artists emerging from the country.

"However, people still consider it the world's factory instead of a source of inspiration and stimulation. The exchange project is to let more French artists learn about China."

The association is hoping to generate more art depicting Sino-European relations and to strengthen cultural communication between China and France.

The artists were selected by

the association's committee, which includes Henri-Claude Cousseau, director of ENSB-A (école Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts), the National School of Fine Arts in Paris; and Yves de Chaisemartin, president of Altran, an European leader in innovation consulting.

One of this year's winners is Lionel Sabaté, who arrived over the weekend.

"Beijing is huge and diversified beyond my imagination," Sabaté, 35, said. "I hope I can get new ideas and inspirations here."

Sabaté is a specialist in painting, sculpturing and animation. During his three months, he will also spend time in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Sabaté, along with the other two winners, are supplied a studio and apartment around Yishu 8 Gallery. The association will cover all living expenses.

The artist is required to give a lecture or workshop while in Beijing. After three months, they will exhibit their works at Yishu 8 gallery and donate one piece to the association.

"After Paris, London and New York, Beijing is becoming the new center of the international culture movement," Cayol said. "We will offer the artists an opportunity for a unique experience in Beijing, so that they deeply feel China."



Lionel Sabaté, one of the French artists currently being sponsored to live and work in Beijing
Photo by Mockingbird

Charity shop in financial straits

By Wei Xi

After about two years in operation, the charity store Brandnü is facing the possibility of a relocation or shutdown.

Brandnü – the "nü" is Chinese for "women" because the project aims to provide rural women with a brand new life – was established by Nathan Zhang in July 2009 in Wudaoying Hutong in Dongcheng District. The small shop mainly sells handicrafts made by rural women.

"We also take clothing and book donations," said Zhang, who believes in the fair trade principle. "I used to donate all of them to migrant worker communities, but now I've started an upscale fashion project and use some of these donations to design new products."

Increasing rent and slow business have forced Zhang to ask the public for help to maintain his store.

Brandnü's main labor source is migrant women who have few job opportunities. During the past two years, Zhang has worked with women from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Sichuan, Guizhou and Shanxi provinces.

Handicrafts were transported by different ways, "some from organizations and some sent by post," Zhang said.

Money collected from these handicrafts were invested in more similar projects and funneled back to the women themselves.

Zhang, who used to be an electrician, executive manager's assistant in an American company, project manager in the telecommunications industry in Canada, TV director and designer, began Brandnü because he felt like he was wasting his life.

"My wife Terry went to a speech given by Professor Wu Qing and she was very inspired," he said. "After that, I decided to work with Rural Women Organization."



Nathan Zhang, Brandnü's founder, at his charity store at Wudaoying Hutong
Photos by Brandnü

"I wanted to do something meaningful, so I quit my job for this shop."

Wu, a professor of Beijing Foreign Language University, is the daughter of well-known writer Bing Xin. Wu devotes herself to charity.

In the same spirit, Brandnü has established a number of partnerships, including with Rural Women, Shangri-la Farms, Femmes du Ningxiang and Dandelion School.

"I think women carry more duties in society, especially in rural areas," Zhang said. "If one woman can benefit from this project, the entire family benefits."

However, since its opening, the Brandnü store has only been able to cover its overhead with the help of a corporate sponsor and Zhang's personal savings.

In order to keep the project running, Zhang has been holding activities to increase sales. "Hopefully I can raise enough money – 84,000 yuan – for rent, which I have to pay by the middle of June," Zhang said. "But not many people came to the last activity."

Zhang's next step is focusing on upscale fashion and spending more time training migrant women, with the goal of creating more job opportunities for them.

Brandnü ethical trade fair

Where: Argo Greek Restaurant (Roof-top Terrace), 59 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: July 10, 1-5 pm
Tel: 1501153421

Event

Ditan Folk Festival

The 2011 Ditan Folk Festival is back with more than 30 bands and a variety of well-known Chinese folk musicians. Whether you're a fan of mountain ballads, Kazakh reggae or Irish folk, you'll have a great time while relaxing on the grass.

Where: Ditan Park, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 7-8, 3-11 pm
Tel: 6403 0513 (Chinese), 13601207414 (English)

Cost: 80 yuan per day, 50 yuan for students, 120 yuan for two-day pass

Horse-riding to the wild Great Wall

Tired of noisy urban life? Need to catch some fresh air outside the city? Try the Personalized Tour and Training (PTT) Club, which will take you to the countryside to visit a farmer's courtyard, eat homemade food such as barbecued fish and wild vegetables, and visit the Great Wall – on horseback.

Where: To be determined

When: Sunday every week, 9 am – 7 pm (approximately)

Email: voipxu@yahoo.com.cn
Cost: 400 yuan per person; 350 yuan for groups of 7-9 people, 300 yuan for groups of 10-14 people, including transportation, lunch, horse-riding around Great Wall and guide service.

Kocoon Yoga Class

Kocoon is offering a special yoga class that mixes Hatha, Ashtanga and Pilates. This is an exclusive class with a maximum of six people. You can also enjoy live guitar music and improvised chants during the session.

Where: The Opposite House, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Monday every week, 8-9:15 pm

Tel: 5208 6068

Cost: 200 yuan

New York! New York

Artists from six countries will perform a combination of numbers from Broadway and the musical *Moulin Rouge*. *New York! New York!* will feature wonderful visuals and songs and elements the audience can smell and taste.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Center Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Haidian District

When: May 7, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6835 1383

Cost: 180-1,280 yuan

(By Wei Xi)

Guard against fake service companies for home appliances



Home appliance repair service is entering peak season as the weather turns hot.

CFP Photos

By Zhao Hongyi

Fake products are everywhere in Beijing, but the knockoff industry is producing something more alarming: fake repair and maintenance agencies.

China National Household Electronic Appliances Service and Maintenance Association, the leading authority protecting users of home appliances, recently appealed to users to beware of unqualified companies and suspicious looking repairmen offering their services.

"They usually dress in uniforms and charge high fees but do nothing for your appliances, sometimes even making them worse," said Zhao Zerui, vice president and secretary of the association.

A man surnamed Wu was one unfortunate victim of a repair scam.

A retired civil servant in Xicheng District, Wu is usually quick to dismiss most of the business cards inserted under his door, but last week he was smitten by one particular card that advertised home appliance repair and maintenance.



When he called, they seemed very professional and claimed they had "authorized" certificates. They said they could clean his home appliances at a very low price.

Wu asked for a simple air-conditioner repair for 35 yuan.

But the company sent two repairmen - dressed in uniform - who told Wu he needed a new "turbo compressor," and that it would cost 790 yuan. They made Wu believe that turning on his air conditioner without the new part would pose an electrical hazard.

Wu forked over the money.

The next day, Wu went to the supermarket to learn more about his

air conditioner. The salesmen told him there was no such thing as a turbo compressor.

When Wu called the air conditioner's official maintenance team, he was informed that other customers had logged similar complaints. He was then told - too late - to be wary of unauthorized maintenance companies.

The China National Household Electronic Appliances Service and Maintenance Association is the authoritative agency regulating services in the country. The association launched a "self-disciplined campaign of home appliances and services" with more than 30 big brands, including Sunning, Fortile, Siemens, Robam, Haier, Chigo, Dell and Sharp, listing all the prices of products and services of each brand on its website.

"Summer is the peak season for home appliance [repair and installation]," Zhao said. "Home appliance users need to be careful when looking for qualified official workers."

To learn more, visit cheasa.org or call 6601 9760.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyang@ynet.com

Are there any cooking classes in Beijing? It does not matter what cuisine - Chinese, French or Italian.

Black Sesame Kitchen on Heizhima Hutong off Nanluogu Xiang holds cooking classes on Thursdays and Saturdays for 300 yuan per person. Visit blacksesamekitchen.com for more information. You can also learn delicious and easy Chinese recipes at hutongcuisine.com. For world cuisines, try wix.com/tinasworkshop/tws. If you are also interested in activities and want to share cooking experiences with others, thehutong.com/blog may provide you with opportunities.

We are moving to Beijing next month. Is it going to be difficult to find a doctor to prescribe Ritalin for my child? Can you buy it in a pharmacy?

Ritalin isn't available in pharmacies in China, it has to be prescribed by a doctor. But it is not difficult to get - just go to the hospital. Major clinics have English-speaking doctors and will be able to help you. Some also have pharmacies within the clinic. Here are some recommended hospitals: Beijing International SOS Clinic, Beijing United Family Hospital, Vista Medical Center, and Hong Kong International Medical Clinic, Beijing.

Are there any summer camps available for my little 5-year-old boy from mid-July to the end of August?

Try beijing-kids.com and search for "summer camp." You will find many summer camp options, such as Sports Beijing Summer Camp, Golf and Chinese Language Summer Camp and Kid Summer Theatre Camp.

I recently heard someone say that there is a market where you can buy cheap secondhand furniture somewhere near Haidian. Can you give more details? Or are there any local secondhand furniture markets elsewhere?

You can buy and sell secondhand furniture at Chengwaicheng Secondhand Furniture Market, located near South Fourth Ring Road in Fengtai District. It is a large warehouse-type complex with multiple vendors largely selling sofas, cane furniture and cots. Most designs are Chinese, with some vendors selling modern pieces. You can bargain 10 to 15 percent off the quoted price. Another secondhand furniture market is called Bei Sha Tan, near North Fourth Ring Road. You can take subway line 10 and get off at Mudanyuan or Jiandemen station. It's a 10-minute walk from there. Or take Bus 305, 315, 407 or 618 and get off at Nanshatang station.

(By Wei Xi)

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Dancing forward

Spring dance week showcases modern performance

By He Jianwei

"If classical ballet is a way of looking backward, modern dance is one of looking into the future," said Willy Tsao, artistic director of BeijingDance/LDTX Theater.

From May 15 to 22, the theater will collaborate with Star Theater Village to present a dance festival where young dance artists will have a chance to promote their modern works.

The Beijing Dance Forward Festival, formerly known as Beijing Modern Dance Week, will present 40 pieces by 25 teams of young dancers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and the mainland.

Since 2008, BeijingDance/LDTX Theater has dedicated one week each spring to displaying modern dance: its presentations alternate each year between international and domestic troupes.

In 2009, the theater invited leading contemporary troupes from Germany, France, Israel and the US. "We provided a chance for Chinese modern dance artists and viewers to see cutting-edge development from the international stage," Tsao said.

When young dancers and choreographers come to Beijing, they have few opportunities to show off their performances. "This festival is a good stage for them, because we do not have any restrictions for applicants," he said.

As a forerunner of modern dance in China, Tsao directs three major companies: City Contemporary Dance Company of Hong Kong (CCDC), Guangdong Modern Dance Company and BeijingDance/LDTX Theater.

His first experience with modern dance was seeing a performance by a European dance troupe in Hong Kong while still in elementary school. He was fascinated with their free movements; the performance kindled his passion for dance.

He sought out a dance school in Hong Kong, but found the ballet programs far too boring and regimented.

Dance took a back seat in his life until he went to study at the School of Business

at Washington University. Recalling his childhood encounter, he enrolled in a modern dance elective. By the time he graduated, he had racked up more credit hours in modern dance than in business.

He returned to Hong Kong to found his own company, BeijingDance/LDTX. His mother was open-minded and provided the investment of HK \$500,000 (418,000 yuan) to help found the CCDC in 1979.

Since then, the company has become Hong Kong's most active promoter of modern dance and contemporary culture. It has created more than 160 works and

"The emergence of more non-professional dancers is a sign of how this art is prospering. For the untrained dancer, it takes immense courage to expose one's body in front of an audience."

presented in 30 major cities.

Tsao has since gone on to devote himself to the development of modern dance both in Hong Kong and the mainland. When Guangdong Modern Dance Company was set up in 1992, the president of the company invited Tsao as its first artistic director.

His first term of six years saw the company emerge on the world stage. It performed at a cultural festival in France in 1998, a challenge which he attributes to Culture not the artists for breakfast to discuss future collaboration.

"The minister planned to hold a modern dance festival between our two countries and asked us how many troupes were in China. At that time, we had only 15 troupes, but France had hundreds," Tsao said.

Modern dance has developed rapidly on the mainland. "Although the number of troupes can be counted with your fingers, we have many leading dancers and

choreographers. The best part is that the audience is starting to learn more about modern dance," he said.

Tsao said that at the first dance festival in 2008, one journalist asked why China was imitating a European art. "In what sense is it imitating? It is not about what modern dance is. Never underestimate the effect of an appreciative audience," he said.

At the 2009 festival, Tsao selected all the programs presented by young artists according to his own judgment. Before the opening of the festival, he had considered the possibility that he might have to remove the programs he thought were "not excellent."

But the audience responded warmly to many of the pieces he planned to cut. "Everyone has his or her understanding of a dance, so I had to trust the audience's taste and back and avoid being a filler before the festival," he said.

This year's program includes professional companies, such as Focus Dance Company from Taiwan and the Taipei National University of Arts, the latter consists of students from Beijing Dance Academy.

It also attracts many non-professional dancers — what Tsao sees as one of the most exciting and unpredictable elements. "Maybe the first will be excellent, but the second will be mediocre, and so-so. But this is the spirit of modern dance. Everyone can dance if he or she wishes," he said.

Each night will show several dances that alternate between professional and non-professional dancers. The shortest performance is 5 minutes and the longest is 15 minutes.

"The emergence of more non-professional dancers is a sign of how this art is prospering. For the untrained dancer, it takes immense courage to expose one's body in front of an audience," he said.

Programs

The Beijing Dance Forward Festival

Where: Star Theater Village, 64 Chaozhou Hutong, Xuanwumen Nei Bajie, Xicheng District
When: May 15 to 22, 7:30 pm
Where: BeijingDance/LDTX Theater, 16 Xiadian Changgong Village, Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: May 16 and 18, 7:30 pm

Rebel presented by Focus Dance Company

1. Fear of Solitude, choreographed by Lo Man-Fei
2. The Sorrowful Song, Song No. 1, choreographed by Zhang Xiao-Xiong
3. Untitled, choreographed by Xing Liang

Where: BeijingDance/LDTX Theater, 16 Xiadian Changgong Village, Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: May 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100 yuan for each session, 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6608 1866, 6405 4842 ext. 8016



The Beijing Dance Forward Festival, formerly known as Beijing Modern Dance Week, will present 40 pieces by 23 teams of young dancers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and the mainland. Each night will show several dances, alternating between professional and non-professional numbers.

Photos provided by BeijingDance/LDTX Theater

Maugham's astonishing life experience

By Charles Zhu

Can any writer live as long as 91 years of age, through two world wars and the Cold War that followed? Could he befriend both Winston Churchill and the Duchess of Windsor and dine with Henry James and Thomas Hardy?

Yes, if his name is William Somerset Maugham.

Selina Hastings, the biographer of Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh, exposes the life of the prolific novelist with astonishing richness in *The Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham*.

Born in Paris to English parents in 1874, Maugham lost his mother at an early age. He was sent back to England for his education, where he entered St. Thomas's Hospital in Lambeth, London. As a physician he learned the art of observing the suffering of others without becoming emotionally involved.

Maugham always looked the perfect English gentleman, with an exquisitely fine suit and tie. He spoke exceptional French, Spanish, German and Italian and Russian, and was a happy international traveler when searching for material for his fiction.

"The writer cannot afford to wait for experience to come to him," he once wrote, "he must go out in search of it." These journeys were also an escape from his marriage to Syrie Wellcome, a noted interior designer. "Tra-la-la, no more alimony, tra-la-la," he sang when he learned that his despised wife, Syrie, had finally died.

Maugham showed his early talent in the theater and in the 1920s had several plays staged at the same time in New York and London.

Maugham entertained his readers with stories of infidelity, incest, depravity, murder and suicide. Most important of all were Maugham's many tales of British colonialists at various outposts of empire. The semi-autobiographical *Of Human Bondage* – about a young man in masochistic enslavement to a waitress – is one of his most celebrated works.

He was particularly good at telling witty dramas of marital discord. Writers with burgeoning talent regard his first half of *The Summing Up* as a guide to story writing.

In his fiction, Maugham was bent on exposing the hypocrisies of his characters. He was well-known as a "brilliant castigator of modern morals" and showed particular acumen in dramatizing the exposure of lies and secrets, the

duplicities of class and religion.

Maugham's works that are most remembered by readers are those that are semi-autobiographical. His World War I spy stories influenced espionage writers such as John le Carré. *His Cakes and Ale* about London's literary life in the 1920s is one of the most sarcastic masterpieces of the 20th century.

Literary critics have usually dismissed him as commercial and sensationalistic because he emphasized clever plots, wrote in plain, declarative prose and appealed to average men and women. With no illusions about his talents, Maugham frankly accepted that he was only a writer of the second rank. "I know just where I stand," Hastings quotes him as having said on more than one occasion, "in the very front row of the second-rate."

Hastings said Maugham was actively bisexual. In fact, the two great loves of his life were a promiscuous young actress named Sue Jones and his genteel and charming secretary Gerald Haxton.

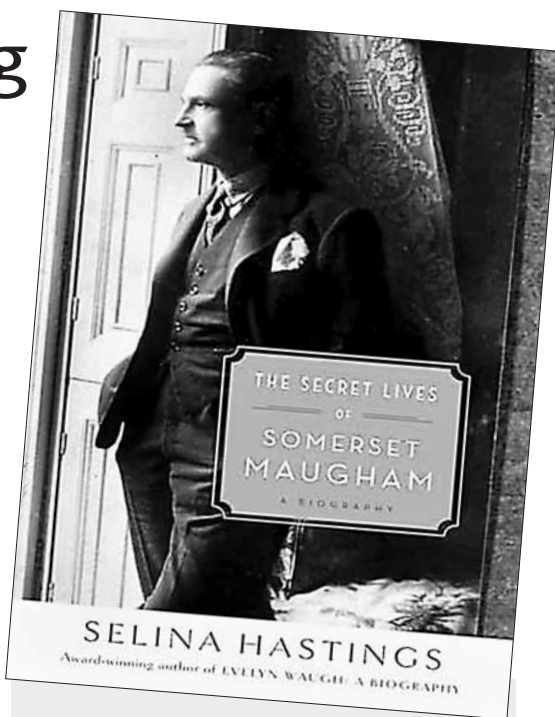
Maugham never allowed his admiring public to know about his sexual appetite, and consequently never allowed any biography. In 1962, his nephew, Robin, wrote to his uncle that an American publisher had offered an advance of \$50,000 to write Maugham's biography. Maugham responded by sending Robin a check for \$50,000.

But Robin did not take the hush money. Ten years later, in a memoir entitled *Escape from the Shadows*, he quoted his uncle as saying, "I tried to persuade myself that I was three-quarters normal and that only a quarter of me was queer – whereas really it was the other way round."

Maugham's efforts to preserve his posthumous reputation were thrown to the winds when his estate decided to open the author's correspondence to scholars.

Hastings has worked to write a different biography, calling Maugham "a fortunate homosexual man." The biography offers the details about the story of Louis Legrand, or Loulou, the "ravishing 16-year-old male whore" whom Maugham and his longtime lover, Gerald Haxton, shared and also made available to the guests at Maugham's villa on Cap Ferrat.

Hastings believes it is safe to say that Maugham "will again hold generations in thrall, that his place is assured."



The Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham
By Selina Hastings, 640pp, Random House, \$35

Love lies in everyday objects

By He Jianwei

Six years ago, contemporary artist Song Dong created an installation titled *Waste Not* in collaboration with his mother. Together, they assembled legless dolls, soap, bottles, pans, plates, tubs, basins, oil flasks and blankets.

Like many Chinese housewives experiencing the lean years of the 1950s and 1960s, Song's mother was industrious and thrifty in managing her household.

"In my childhood, my mother collected leftover cloth to sew new garments. She still saves any useful materials, even though our lives have improved dramatically," Song said.

Waste Not, which means to use every material to its fullest, was a necessary survival tactic in the past. People found security by saving everyday objects.

Waste Not is an on-going project.

Since its 2005 debut in Beijing, the installation has traveled to the sixth Guangzhou Biennale in 2006, the Berlin World Culture Pavilion in 2008, the New Art Gallery in Walsall, England, The Museum of Modern Art in New York in 2009 and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco in 2011.

A book, *Waste Not: Ordinary People's Contemporary Art*, provides extended reading about the exhibition and was published by Shanghai People's Press this month.

Edited by art historian Wu Hung, the three-chapter book includes an introduction to the significance of the exhibition, Song and his mother's memories of each of the objects on exhibit and audience response.

Song decided to work with his mother on an art piece shortly after his father passed away in 2002. "To help my mother get past her sorrow,



Waste Not: Ordinary People's Contemporary Art
Edited by Wu Hung, 290pp, Shanghai People's Press, 45 yuan

I asked her to get involved in my creation," Song said. "The exhibition was like a process to sort out her memories. It was a time for us to rethink consumerist culture."

During the exhibition's tour, Song's mother died by falling out of a tree while trying to rescue an injured bird. The objects in the exhibition have become a memory of his mother.

"This exhibition is a portraiture of many Chinese families. The objects left behind by the parents are carried with love," Wu said.

"As the Book of Rites states, when a father dies, the son cannot bear to read his books, for the touch of his hands seems to be on them still. When his mother dies, he cannot bear to drink from the cups and bowls that she had used, for the breath of her mouth seems to be on them still."

Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of books about international art, design and architecture.

Love Me

By Zed Nelson, 192pp, Contrasto, \$45

Photographer Zed Nelson spent five years visiting 17 countries to photograph cosmetic surgeons, anorexics, child beauty queens, bodybuilders, trainee models, housewives, porn stars, businessmen and soldiers signing up for breast implants. This collection explores the insidious power of the global beauty industry and our collective insecurity, vanity and fear of aging.

African Signs

By Rob Floor, 210pp, KIT Publishers, \$45

Throughout Africa, signs above shops along the road, vehicles and walls contain colorful painted advertisements and art. Hairdressers, restaurants, garages, butchers, tailor – many such shops began with nothing more than a prominent ad on a sign and grew into a business. This book pays homage to this art form. While versions of these signs produced strictly for the export art market can be found, Floor gathered photos taken on location in West Africa.

Blek le Rat: Getting Through the Walls

By Sybille Prou and King Adz, 128pp, Thames & Hudson, \$22.95

This book is about the life and work of street artist Blek le Rat, whose work has influenced CD design, advertising and graphics, as well as the work of urban artists. It features photographs of hundreds of Rat's works and an in-depth exploration of the method and meaning behind his stencils and posters, as well as a look at the evolution of urban art from New York, Paris, Barcelona and Buenos Aires to London, Taipei, Naples and Berlin.

(By He Jianwei)



Become a mobile phone filmmaker

By Chu Meng

The video recording abilities of mobile phones are improving with each generation of technology, but the era when phones will be good enough to create a feature film has already arrived.

A recent entry by a Korean

director to the Berlin International Film Festival was created using only an iPhone 4: the director took home a Golden Bear award for Best Short Film.

His success proves that with some smart tips and the right software, mobile phones can be a viable option for the aspiring filmmaker.



Park Chan-wook's work, *Oldboy* (2003)



Paranmanjang, or *Night Fishing*, shot by Korean director Park Chan-wook and his brother Park Chan-kyong, is a fantasy-horror short about a man who transcends his current and former lives.

In it, a middle-aged man hooks the body of a woman after a day of fishing. As he tries to undo the line in a panic, he finds himself more entangled and eventually faints. When he wakes, he finds himself wearing the same white clothes as the woman as he lives out her tale of life and death.

The complex film was recorded with only one camera: an iPhone.

"From hunting for a film location, shooting auditions to doing a documentary on the filming process, everything was shot with the iPhone 4," Park was quoted by CNN at the awards ceremony as saying.

Of course, it did cost \$130,000. But much of that money went to paying the food costs of the 80-member crew.

The film will be screened later this month at nine cinemas in South Korea and at Korean Embassies around the world.

Chen Liaoyu, an associate professor at Beijing Film Academy, said most smart phones can record equally good films if used with proper cinematography, lighting and a mind for tweaking the in-phone camera: *Night Fishing* showed such films could be done well.

Chen has been making mobile phone films since 2005, when he shot China's first publicly screened mobile phone film – a 20-minute short named *Apple* – with a Sony Ericson k750c.

Advantages of going mobile

Chen says he expects to see more of these movies shot for the "very small screen" winning awards in the future, if last year's Pocket Films Festival held in Japan and France is any indicator. Many

online shorts are already being produced with smart phones for viewing on similar devices.

But smart phones aren't limited to shooting short films.

The 70-minute feature film by Dutch filmmaker Cyrus Frisch titled *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me It*

Would Be This Bad In Afghanistan that has been picked up for several international film festivals shows how the technology can be used on a larger scale.

Smart phone cameras also make it possible to shoot in locations that were off limits to bulky studio equipment. With a phone, any spare room can become a set. "This gives films a sense of unpredictability and spontaneity because we can now almost literally go anywhere," he said.

Given the barrier to entry – equipment that most people already either have or can afford – we've "reached a point where the only thing stopping you from making a film is you," Chen said.

Fundamentals of filmmaking

Chen has a few tips for aspiring pocket filmmakers who are looking to get started:

1. Buy a video-capable mobile phone. Some of the best choices are the Nokia N82, N6102 and N96. Motorola's RAZR series offers in-camera special effects and can upload wirelessly to the Web. Samsung's Blackjack MM-A900 and Memoir SGH-929, and several Sony Ericsson phones, including the W900is, are good choices, as are the BlackBerry Storm, Curve 8900 and Bold 9000.

Make sure the phone can shoot at a resolution of 1.3 megapixels and close to 30 frames per second.

2. You'll need a way to format your footage for Web upload. Once you have shot your own work, you will need to prepare it to be encoded. Some of the more common formats are MPEG-3; MPEG-4; QuickTime; Windows Media Video; Flash File, RealVideo and DivX.

3. Obtain a good editing package. Editing software provides the post-production tools needed to make your mobile phone movie look like the "real thing." A surprising number of these are free. Pretty much every Apple laptop comes with a basic editing package called "iMovie."

Higher-end editing software is also available from a variety of providers for anything between the cost of a good meal and the price of a small motor scooter.

4. Find a hosting site or distribution network. Social networking media like YouTube, Facebook, Flickr and Youku, as well as more professionally-oriented platforms like Jaman, Revver, Atom Films, Dailymotion and Vldider, and many others can meet most new filmmakers' demands.

Stabilizing camera

The two biggest technical challenges for mobile phone filmmakers are picture stability and audio quality. How does one avoid shaky footage on a phone camera?

As camera size shrinks, shake increases. The lighter a device gets, the harder it is to hold steady without a tripod. Chen has four trips for stabilizing your phone.

1. Get a bunch of soft-padded sleeves, such as old athletic socks or oven mitts, and a few C-clamps. This will let you attach your camera-phone to almost any solid object that you might find located somewhere in your shooting environment, like a construction site scaffold, a chain-link fence, an office doorknob or table leg.

2. Speaking of tripods, the little backpacker tripods seen in travel catalogues and the impulse purchase section of photo stores can also be useful.

3. The best mobile phone tripod is the human body, because it absorbs so much vibration. Tuck your elbows into your sides and think of your body as a solid unit. When you change directions with the camera phone – such as when panning – don't move the phone: move your body.

4. Before shooting, frame your shot and take a full, deep breath. Release half of it, then press "record." You are a lot steadier with half a lung full of air than you are fighting with yourself over no air at all.



South Korean film director Park Chan-wook



Scene from *Paranmanjang*, or *Night Fishing*



Free online film editing software



A simple lifestyle with happiness in details

By Annie Wei

People who are enchanted by what old objects reveal about life before China's economic opening might be interested in these two home living brands: Shihuo Shiji and Lost & Found.

Shenghuo Shiji

Those who visited the first Sculpting in Time Café in Zhongguancun eight years ago may remember a tiny corner shop that sold cotton apparels and small items like spoons, teacups and accessories.

That counter has turned into the chain brand Shenghuo Shiji, with eight outlets in town.

It has also evolved into a store that designs its own products, from kitchenware, European-style furniture to apparel. The newest store in Chaoyang District is 200 square meters and showcases the latest products and trends.

Women between the ages of 25 and 45 who are interested in reading, traveling, gardening, interior decorating, food and wine will find many items to suit their fancy.

Shenghuo Shiji - Chaoyang

Where: 21-106, Building 7, 5 Wanke Gongyuan, Tianshuiyuan Jie, Chaoyang District
Open: noon - 8:30 pm
Tel: 6599 6018

Shenghuo Shiji - Haidian

Where: Floor 2, Building 12, Huaqing Jiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian District
Open: 9 am - 10 pm
Tel: 8286 3692
Website: shop34686875.taobao.com



598 yuan



528 yuan

Photos provided by Shenghuo Shiji



Elephant ring, 198 yuan



Chip, 128 yuan



Ceramic pot, 168 yuan



980 yuan



1,880 yuan



5,500 yuan

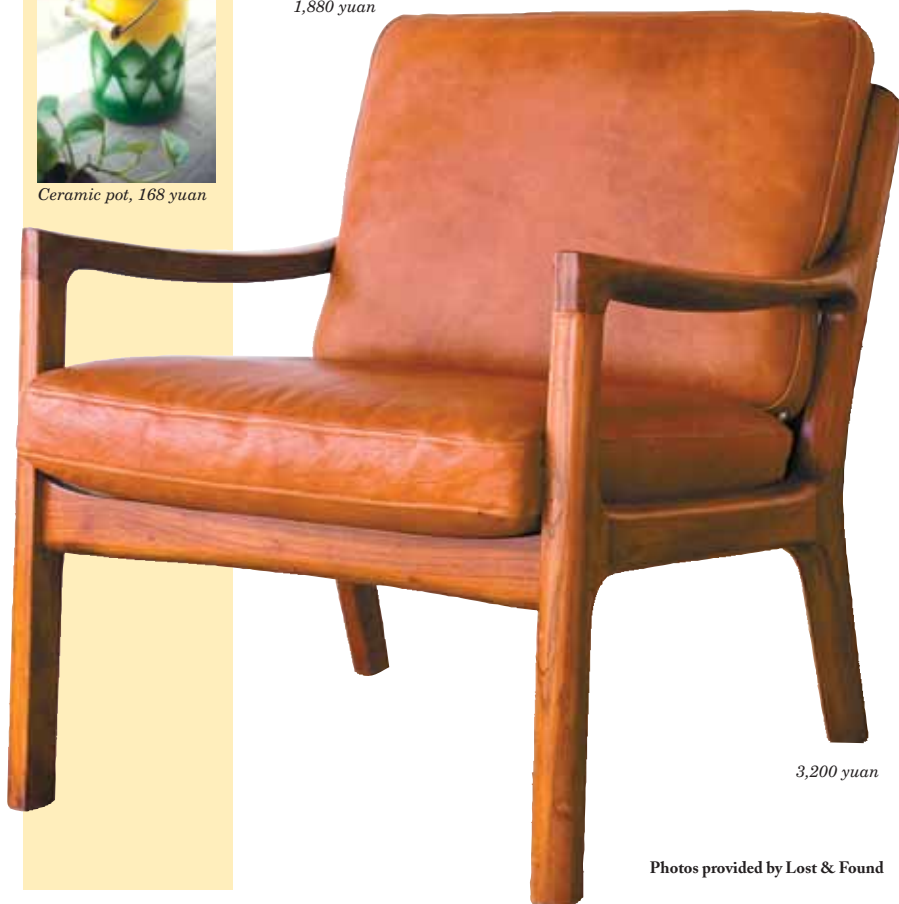
Lost & Found

Lost and Found reflects the brand's keen interest in practical and simple furniture made of solid wood. The brand's inspiration came from a broken sofa chair spotted in a hutong, said Yuan Yue, the communication executive, and the small stools that hutong grandpas sit on while playing Chinese chess or chatting. Furniture popular in the 1950s and '60s not only has beauty in its simplicity, but also expresses a persevering spirit that is hard to find in today's fast-consuming world.

The brand, started from Guozijian Hutong in 2008, has expanded its focus to interior design and space planning recently.

Lost & Found

Where: 42 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng District
Open: noon - 8:30 pm
Tel: 6401 1855
Website: lostandfound.cn



3,200 yuan

Photos provided by Lost & Found

Wine and delicious food for a good weekend

By Annie Wei

The perfect outdoor meal? Doesn't matter, as long as it's paired with a nice wine. *Beijing Today* found new wines available in town and two new restaurants



More wines coming in

"It does not matter if you know about wine or not, drinking wine is a trend at bars or restaurants nationwide," said Ji Xinyu, a 31-year-old local bank employee.

Ji is right. More and more Chinese are drinking wine for fashion, health, taste or just because. Even big corporations have begun giving French wine as holiday gifts instead of cooking oil.

With more wineries entering the market, customers have more choices. Recently, wine associations from traditional wine-growing regions have held tastings in China: 110 wines from more than 20 of New Zealand's top wineries visited town for the first time on April 9; Napa vintners came on April 22 and the Portuguese wine association presented 200 wines in Shanghai from May 18 to 20.

New Zealand's wine is known for growing better with each vintage, offering reliable quality easily paired with a variety of foods, such as Cantonese cuisine.

Napa Valley is also known for quality boutique wineries. Many wineries have small production but unique products.

Although a lot of wineries are still looking for dealers, some are already available.

For example, The Wine Republic in Beijing (thewinerepublic.com) distributes Seresin Estate (195 yuan to 403 yuan), which comes from a vineyard in Marboough, New Zealand. Its grapes are organically and bio-dynamically grown, hand-tended and handpicked.

Napa's Schramsberg Vineyards' 2007 sparkling wine Blanc de Noirs was the only brut at the April 22 Napa wine tasting. The local market already knows about Schramsberg Vineyards, as a 1969 Blanc de Blancs was used when US President Richard Nixon and premier Zhou Enlai toasted to peace in Beijing in 1972.

Anyone interested can contact



CFP Photos

the distributor in Shanghai, globus-wine.com.

Stag's Leap Wine Cellars is also a legendary brand. Back in the 1970s, few people thought California could produce anything that would compare with French wine. To many wine tasters, French wines, especially red Bordeaux and white Burgundies, were always best. However, tastings proved that 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellar S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon was actually the best. The winery's products are available at asc-wines.com.

A tiny production brand, Larkin Wines, is available at Maison Boulud starting at 400 yuan per bottle. The winery owner, Sean Larkin, is the only Scottish-born wine proprietor in Napa Valley. His wine is rated higher than 80 points by Robert Parker, a world-known wine critic.

Finally, anyone interested in Portuguese wine should not miss the wine fair in Pudong Shanghai New International Expo Center, where 300 Portuguese wines will be presented from May 18 to 20.

It will be the second grand tasting in China hosted by the Portuguese Winemaker & Producer Association under the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture. The first was hosted in Beijing last year.

Portuguese wines are known for quality taste at reasonable prices.

Qianshuiwan – consistent quality

Qianshuiwan, named after the famous Repulse Bay in Hong Kong, is the name of a Cantonese restaurant in CBD. Its dishes are recommended by many food lovers for their authenticity, healthy and organic ingredients and consistency.

To start, we recommend its luobu niunantang (18 yuan), stewed white turnip and beef flank soup. The soup is a delicious appetizer, and the beef flank serving was ample.

For main dishes, we recommended yutao-bao (68 yuan), stewed fat fish head on top of several types of garlic in an earthen pot; jindao niurouli (68 yuan), diced tender beef fried with mushrooms and served with cooked rice; Hakka fried tofu (48 yuan), a big serving of minced pork with tofu, a favorite dish of many diners.

The dim sum selection is good as well: feng-zhua (18 yuan), chicken feet, seasoned with black beans, chilies and taros; changfen (18 yuan), plain rice rolls filled with different meats like barbecued pork, shrimp or beef; baicai jiaozhi (18 yuan), steamed dumpling filled with lettuce and wrapped in translucent rice; liushabao (20 yuan), a classic dim sum that most southern diners love: steamed bun filled with salted egg yolk, warm and salty.



Chicken feet, 18 yuan

CFP Photo

All-you-can-drink Pu'er or chrysanthemum tea is available for 10 yuan.

The restaurant is in a traditional Hong Kong restaurant style. Waiters and waitresses are friendly and attentive.

Qianshuiwan

Where: B1, Fortune Plaza, 5 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm

Tel: 6562 8555 ost: Average 150 yuan per person

St. Anny Food – Dutch-style fast food

The opening of St. Anny Food, a Dutch eatery specializing in fish, attempts to right an oversight: the lack of good Dutch restaurants in town.

St. Anny Food offers quite a few basic Dutch dishes: Butch red bean sausage soup (18 yuan) is prepared with red beans, potatoes, onions, sausages, bacon and bread. With so many healthy ingredients, it's quite the energy boost.

Our waitress recommended Dutch vegetable braised rice with fish (36 yuan), North Sea salmon noodle with cream sauce and mix vegetables (42 yuan) and Hague fried fish noodles (36 yuan). The above fish dishes taste OK, but presentation can use some improvements.

We prefer the simpler items: Dutch apple pie (18 yuan), Dutch waffles served with blueberry on braised apples (12 yuan) and fresh

orange juice (22 yuan).

St. Anny Food

Where: 3115, 1st floor, C Tower Sanlitun SOHO, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8590 0687

Cost: Average 40 yuan per person



Salmon noodle with cream sauce and mixed vegetables, 42 yuan

Photo by An Xu

German sculptor creates Chinese works

By Zhang Dongya

Last week, German sculptor Jorg Plickat, described by the Goethe Institute as using "formal language" that is "comprehensible worldwide," displayed his recent works at Yishu 8 Gallery, many

of which were created using sandstone and marble from Yunnan Province.

"I like the sandstone because it is very different and can only be found in China," Plickat, 57 said.

Plickat has participated in

more than 300 shows in art fairs, galleries and museums worldwide. More than 60 of his monumental works in stone, steel and bronze are installed permanently in several countries across three continents.

In 2008, a 25-ton piece made from Chinese marble was chosen, after a two-year selection process, for presentation in Beijing's Olympic Park.

"It's composed of a frame and a number of circular arc elements and cubes inside that frame, which could make up a globe," said Ninon Colneric, co-dean of the China-EU School of Law. "The underlying idea is that the Olympic Games gave to a world fragmented into different political and cultural systems a frame that unites it, at least temporarily."

Last year, Plickat was invited to participate in a competition in China and won the opportunity to create a

sculpture for the city of Ordos in Inner Mongolia, a swimming sculpture in Tangshan, Hebei Province and a granite sculpture in Taizhou, Zhejiang Province.

On April 9, his new sculpture was unveiled at Tsinghua University's centennial.

Starting this month, Plickat will be a guest lecturer at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. He said he would continue to spend much of his time creating new works in the US, Canada and Germany this year, as well as searching for more stones in Italy and other European cities.

Volume Shape Array

Where: Yishu 8 Gallery, Cable 8 Factory, 8 Langjiayuan, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until May 14, daily except Sunday, 10 am - 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6581 9058



Friday, May 6

Nightlife
Punk Night
Five local bands - Birdstriking, BeY-oung, Sgt.

Pepper, Irregularities and Pepper - present punk music.
Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 9 pm
Admission: free
Tel: 6265 3177

Exhibition



Kawa=Flow - Yamamoto Masao Solo Exhibition
This exhibition presents Japanese photographer Masao's

works featuring the everyday details of his life and mountainous landscapes.

Where: Mizuma and One Gallery, 241 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 22, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3267

Movie

On the Ropes (2007)

Joseph is the manager of a boxing club, training his daughter and niece for the French championships. They are enthusiastic about the sport, but Theresa, Joseph's wife, does not share their passion, though she does her best to endure.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, May 8

Exhibition
Soul of the Land - The Abstract Aesthetics of Contemporary

Landscape Paintings

This group exhibition shows landscape paintings by Chinese contemporary artists, reflecting the influences of both traditional Chinese paintings and Western abstract paintings.

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao

Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until May 31, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9698

Nightlife

Xi Ming

As one of leading rock musicians in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, Xi released his second album, Ming Yao, this year.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Movie

Island Etude (2006)

This Taiwanese film is about an aurally disabled college student riding bikes around the island in seven days and six nights. On the road, he discovers the natural and cultural beauty of Taiwan.

Where: Life List, 14 Dajiangchang Xi Xiang, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 8402 8460



Upcoming

Nightlife

SohoJazz

Featuring members from the US, Britain, Russia and Australia, this jazz group plays classic and contemporary jazz, swing, blues and ballads.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 12, 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 40 yuan at the door
Tel: 6401 4611

Stage in June

Concert

Anuna Ireland National Choir

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: June 14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Dresden Philharmonic

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 18, 7:30 pm
Admission: 200-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaochengyu Lu, Xicheng District
When: June 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-580 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Lucerne Symphony Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 28-29, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Haze presented by Beijing Dance Theater

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 17-18, 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-240 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

The Yellow Storm

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 3-12, 7:30 pm
Admission: 200-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Soft

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: June 21-26, 7:30 pm
Admission: 150-580 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Opera

The Bat

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 3-6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Protect your hair from going gray

By Li Zhixin

Hair tends to lose its natural color as we age. However, premature graying can cause young people to appear far older than they really are.



CFP Photo

Shampoo gimmicks no help

Regina Chen, a 21-year-old college student, has seen her hair rapidly turning gray for the last two years.

After coming down with the flu repeatedly and developing serious allergies, she learned a serious nutritional deficiency was at the root of her problems.

"I tried changing shampoos and applying coconut oil, but nothing helped the problem," she said.

She doesn't dye her hair, and the salt-and-pepper look caused by her gray streaks makes her a frequent target of teasing at school.

"It's made me depressed. Often, I just don't feel like doing anything," she said.

She said she has been very discouraged that her dermatologists and other doctors have not been able to find a solution to halt or reverse the graying process.

Graying occurs as a result of reduced production of melanin by the hair bulb or follicle. Melanin is the key pigment responsible for color in people's hair.

As melanin concentration falls, hair loses its color and becomes gray.

Causes of premature gray hair

Heredity is one of the most common reasons for going gray at a young age. This can be passed from generation to generation: if your father and your grandfather had premature gray hair, there is a good chance you will have it too.

Poor eating and stress can also cause premature graying.

A diet lacking in B vitamins, iron, copper and iodine can be responsible for going gray at a young age, as can one be too rich in acidic, spicy, sour, greasy or oily food, alcohol, meat, coffee or tea. Excess consumption of these foods sucks moisture and nutrients away from the hair follicles and may result in premature graying.

Stress too can cause extraordinary tension in the skin of the scalp, which chokes off the hair follicles' access to vital nutrients. Similarly, anxiety, fear, jealousy and failure all have adverse effects on hair by drying out the scapular marrow that feeds hair follicles.

Traditional medicine's view

According to traditional medicine, hair quality and quantity is a reflection of internal health. Hair strength, color, rate of growth and thickness depend on the quality of an individual's internal organs and vital substances.

"Premature graying is often seen as a weakness of kidney qi," said Li Jianguo, a doctor at Beijing Chinese Medicine Hospital's GuoYi hall. "The strength of your kidney manifests as hair on your head. That hair is also an extension of liver blood."

Symptoms of a deficiency in liver blood may include: pale complexion, dizziness, dry, dull skin and hair and fatigue.

"Kidney essence can loosely be understood as your genetic material and energy reservoir," he said. The kidney system influences metabolism, growth, reproduction, hormones and the nervous systems. Some indications of weak kidney essence include weak bones, poor teeth, deafness, impotence, infertility, exhaustion and poor quality hair.

As we age, energy and vital substances like blood, qi and fluids in the liver and kidneys naturally decline. This causes hair to thin, become brittle, lose its color and recede or fall out.

Some people may age faster than others, either due to a congenital weakness or because they live or party too hard and burn themselves out. In this case, the blood, qi and substances they do have are used to nourish their vital organs rather than their hair, skin and nails.

However, there are ways to preserve and increase our energy, blood and qi with acupuncture, herbal medicine, nutrition and other lifestyle adjustments.

Tips to stop hair graying

1. Heshouwu: Herbal formulas with Heshouwu, a tonic that boosts the kidneys and promotes longevity, are often given to encourage the growth of new hair and to maintain its color. Hair that has lost its color cannot regain it, but because hair is always growing, the next strand to emerge from the follicle may be able to be restored to its natural color by strengthening the kidneys.

2. Diet: A healthy, well-balanced and nutritious diet is of the utmost importance in the prevention and treatment of premature graying. Eating right can ensure you have healthy, strong and beautiful hair even into your 50s. Try to increase your intake of foods that are rich in vitamin B, iron and minerals like copper and zinc to facilitate the growth of healthy hair. No vitamin is more important than the vitamin B series in the fight against gray hair.

These vitamins can be found in foods like yogurt, liver, wheat germ and yeast, and provide the essential B vitamins needed to regulate the production of melanin. The enhanced but controlled production of melanin inhibits the process of graying.

In addition, black sesame seeds and black beans are both considered kidney and liver tonics that can be used to help darken the hair. Good nutrition is important to nourishing your body and improving the quality of your hair.

3. Massage: Try to massage a mixture of lemon juice and coconut oil into your scalp and hair daily to prevent graying.

4. Exercise: Exercise regularly to relieve stress. Yoga and Pilates are ideal for reducing pressure, as are other deep breathing exercises.

Pinggu music festival revives old places of interest

By Zhang Dongya

The May Day holiday was packed with music festivals. Among them, China Music Valley International Music Festival, also called Pinggu Music Festival, stood out for its numerous international acts including Avril Lavigne and Ladytron.

It proved to be a boon for Pinggu's tourism industry, which relies on its ancient temples and natural

beauty to attract visitors this season.

This month, Pinggu will hold its annual temple fair in Yajishan, which always attracts those seeking folk and temple culture.

Last month, the district opened a tourist bus service for people coming from downtown to Yajishan, Shilinxia Scenic Spot, Jingdong Grand Canyon and Jinhaihu Scenic Spot.



The first music festival in Pinggu featured several big-name international acts. Photo by Wang Weilin

Inaugural music festival highlights Pinggu

It was wise planning on Pinggu's part to time its first music festival with its peach flower festival.

Every year, visitors head to Pinggu to check out peach blossoms in April. This year, the district offered a guide for comprehensive viewing.

The flower area – 15 hectares of peach orchards – was divided into several blocks, with different routes outlined on the guide. Liujiadian and

Dahuashan were visitors' favorite destinations because they featured the most blossoms. Xiaojinshan and Daling were also popular because visitors could hike to high ground and look down on seas of flowers.

The flowers will complete blooming this week.

The music festival, at Yuyang International Ski Resort in south Pinggu, was a big draw because unlike other music festivals in the city, it actually featured notable international artists such as Avril Lavigne, Ladytron and

Juliette Lewis.

"I visited several music festivals during the May Day holiday, including Midi in Mentougou and Strawberry in Tongzhou, but I was most excited about the Pinggu festival because of big names like Avril," said Eric Wang, a student. "Although the weather was bad due to heavy dust, the trip was quite rewarding."

The music festival bolstered local farmers' incomes, as many were hired to work as stagehands and other jobs.

Continued on page 21...



Spring temple fairs starting this month

Yajishan, or the Mount of Hair Locks, is located in Liudian Town, Pinggu District. On its peak are two huge rocks that resemble bundles of hair, thus its name.

On the peak is Bixia Yuanjun Ancestral Temple, a well-known Taoist temple. It was first built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and prospered during Yuan (1206-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911).

Although Yaji Mount is steep, it's considered a place with good fengshui, so many dynasties constructed buildings on it. There are about 18 ancient architectural complexes around the mount.

Each year, the Yaji Temple Fair is held during the first 15 days of the 4th lunar month, corresponding with May 3 to May 17 this year. Visitors from Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Shandong province come to pray and burn incense.



A new royal ceremony was added this year, including scenes of emperors proposing a toast and worshipping heaven.

Photos by Mockingbird

At the Pinggu music festival
Photo by Wang Weilin



...continued from page 20

There has been increase in visitors in recent years. Last year, more than 16,000 people showed up on opening day, a 30 percent increase compared from the previous year.

The local governor has invested more than 50 million yuan to restore the scenic spot and reproduce the temple's old glory.

A new royal ceremony was added this year, including scenes of emperors proposing a toast and worshipping heaven. A group of more than 2,000 actors will perform lion dances, land boat dances and the race-donkey dance.

There will be an exhibition of Taoist culture on Mount Yaji, with historical photographs and collected articles, including statues, inscribed signboards and rubbings.

Yajishan Scenic Spot

Where: Liudian Town, Pinggu

Admission: 15 yuan

Getting there: Take Bus 918 to Guanzhuang Lukou and transfer to Bus 5 or 6 to Liudian Town. Or drive along Jingshun Lu to Pinggu and drive down Pingmi Lu for half an hour.

Other destinations in Pinggu

Laoxiangfeng Scenic Spot

Located in northern Xiaoyuzi Village, Dahuashan Town, Laoxiangfeng is an important sightseeing spot in west Pinggu. It is close to Mount Yaji, so visitors finishing their temple fair tour can head here. Laoxiangfeng, or peak of old elephant, resembles an elephant that is 50 meters tall and 80 meters long. A remarkably dense forest of old trees and cliff are also quite the sight.

Open: 8 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: 25 yuan

Shilinxia Scenic Spot

Shilinxia, or the gorge of stone forest, is located in Huangsongyu Geopark in Huangsongyu Town. As its name implies, it features a forest of steep, erect peaks, like a forest of stones. Among the precipitous cliffs are many cypresses – another splendid spectacle. Other unique views include huge rocks, high waterfalls and voluminous streams along the gorge. It is an ideal place for hiking.

Getting there: Take Bus 918 to Pinggu and transfer to Bus 25 to Shilinxia. Or drive along Jingshun Lu to Kuliushu Huandao and turn right to Pinggu. Drive toward Jinhaihu and turn north at Huzhuang Lukou.

Admission: 60 yuan

Jinhaihu Resort

Jinhai Lake is a large reservoir in Pinggu. Surrounded by mountains in three directions, it gives off a tranquil atmosphere. On its west, a huge dam was built, with a long corridor constructed on the top. The corridor, in an ancient style, offers a good place to take shelter from sunshine and rain, as well as to overlook the landscape of the lake. There are many recreational amenities on the lake, such as speedboats, pedal boats and waterslides. Some rowing and canoeing competitions have been held here.

Getting there: Take Bus 918 to Pinggu and transfer to Bus 8 to Jinhaihu.

Open: 7 am – 9 pm

Admission: 18 yuan

Free Tourist Bus Service to Pinggu

From April 9 to October 8, a bus will run between Dongzhimen Long-distance Bus Station to Pinggu during weekends and holidays. Visitors can buy tickets to Shilinxia Scenic Spot, Jingdong Grand Canyon or Jinhaihu Scenic Spot. Tickets are sold between 6 am and 8 am from Dongzhimen, with the bus departing at 8 am.



Laoxiangfeng Peak



Shilinxia features many steep peaks, like a forest of stones.



Pinggu is an ideal place to have a picnic or go fishing.

Photos by Mockingbird

Summertime is perfect to hike Pinggu's mountains while enjoying its scenery.
CFP Photo



Dining



Shanghai Min presents city's Top 20 dishes

Gourmet institution Shanghai Min, formerly known as Xiao Nan Guo, has been the city's most successful restaurant for almost 24 years. With more than 30 restaurants in key cities across the mainland and branches in Hong Kong and Tokyo, it is China's best-loved purveyor of classic Shang-hainese cuisine and culture.

Shanghai Min will be returning to its gourmet roots to present its 20 best dishes as part of May's "I Love Shanghai" promotion. Selected from its encyclopedic menu of classic and contemporary Shanghai and regional Chinese fare, the special menu will be accompanied by discounts, complimentary servings and iPad giveaways.

Diners who order from the "I Love Shanghai" menu during the promotional period will be entered in a raffle to win one of 10 iPads. Diners can also enjoy a complimentary dish for every three items ordered from the menu. China Merchants Bank credit card holders can also get a 50 percent discount when ordering Steamed Whole Hilsa Herring with Jinhua Ham or Sautéed Supreme Beef in XO Sauce.

Where: Shanghai Min restaurants on the mainland

When: Until the end of May
Tel: 400 820 9777



Mother's Day tea

Throughout the month of May, we will be celebrating our most important treasure: mothers. The Regent's chefs are preparing a delightful

Sweet brunch for moms at Ritz-Carlton's Aroma

This Mother's Day, let mom have a break from cooking by treating her to Aroma! The restaurant's chefs are preparing a rich and warm Mother's Day brunch for you and your mother. The elegant environment and unparalleled cuisine are sure to guarantee a memorable occasion.

The brunch includes Chinese, Japanese, Indian and European dishes. Mothers who come to dine on May 8 will receive a special gift.

Where: Aroma, lobby, the Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
When: May 8, 11:30 am - 3 pm

Cost: 598 yuan, includes soft drinks, juice, local beer, house wine and champagne; 228 yuan for

array of pastries, cakes, tarts and savory items for all moms. But you don't have to be a mom to enjoy these delicious treats!

All moms will receive a gift from the Regent.
Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: May 8, 2:30-5 pm

Cost: 88 yuan, includes international and Chinese teas and coffee

Tel: 8522 1789



Purity Vodka Martini cocktails at M Bar

Buy one Purity Vodka Martini and receive a second free.

Where: M Bar, Sofitel Wanda, Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Every Wednesday, 6 pm - 2 am the next day

Cost: 98 yuan per glass (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6501

Email: beverage@sofitelwandabj.com



Savor the finest beef

Australia is where The Regent Beijing buys its wagyu beef; the lush green fields, wide open spaces and clean air make its meat taste better. Come and enjoy Australia's best prime beef: perfectly aged and carefully seasoned. It's a treat for true beef lovers!

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8522 1789



children (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5908 8777

Email: rc.bjsrz.restaurant.reservation@ritzcarlton.com

(By Jackie Zhang)

Hotel

Treat your mom to The Ritz-Carlton Spa

Pamper your mom with a firming neck and bust treatment that uses acupuncture to restore suppleness and elasticity to the neck and décolleté.

Located on the top floor of the Ritz-Carlton, The Spa is contemporary, yet designed with comfort and relaxation in mind. The Spa is divided into Ladies and Gentlemen resting areas. It features 10 treatment rooms that includes six single lavish treatment rooms, one Couples' Suite that comes with a Balinese massage bed and a color hydrotherapy bathtub, a Nail Bar, one Vichy Shower room and an Aqua Bed room.

The colors of the suite are aqua blue, earthy tones paired with leather in the men's salon and a warm persimmon shade in the women's salon.

Where: Spa, top floor of the Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May

Cost: 550 yuan (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5908 8080

Email:

rc.bjsrz.restaurant.reservation@ritzcarlton.com

Event

13th China tech fair coming this November

China High-Tech Fair (CHTF) is the largest and most influential exhibition of cutting-edge domestic technologies. The event includes product exhibitions, development forums and investment opportunities.

The annual fair brings together government departments, businesses, universities, research institutes, financial organizations and intermediary agencies to improve the marketability of new technologies and to offer traders and investors from home and abroad access to new business opportunities, technologies, products, markets and human resources.

CHTF is an important showcase of cutting-edge technologies and products. Participants from as many as 50 countries have come to CHTF to trade and display their products, including some 30 national and international organizations from the US, UK, Germany and Canada, as well as more than 40 multinationals such as Microsoft, IBM, Oracle, Siemens, Ericsson, Phillips and Sony.

More than 400 political, academic and business elites have shared their thoughts at the CHTF forums, including Nobel Prize winners, government officials and presidents of major multinational companies.

Where: Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, Fuhua San Lu, Futian District, Shenzhen

When: November 16-20

Tel: 0755-8284 8900 8284 8800

Fax: 0755-8284 8700

Email: chtf@chtf.com

Website: chtf.com/english

(By Li Zhixin)

HP helps artists explore possibilities

Artists Lu Yanpeng and Lu Di are showing their glass, mirror and lightbox art at HP Total Printing House in 751 ArtZone of 798 Art District. Lu Yanpeng said it was the first time his mirror photographic works were being printed for presentation.

HP's Beijing studio, its third in China after Hangzhou and Shanghai, helps artists realize their works in various materials like metal, porcelain and fabric. The studio uses HP Scitex&P30 printers to provide high-end printing service for the "visual art market," "environmental art market" and "commercial art market."

Lu Yanpeng and Lu Di's exhibits will be the first held on location at HP's studio.

Lu Yanpeng/Lu Di Photographic Exhibition

Where: Building E of D-Park, 751 Art Zone, 4 Jiuxian-qiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 31, 9:30 am - 6:30 pm (Monday - Friday), 10 am - 6:30 pm (Saturday - Sunday)

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9201

(By Zhang Dongya)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

The fun of slang

By Huang Daohen

I was trying hard to think up embarrassing moments in English usage to write this Chinglish column when a friend suggested a new angle: non-Chinese speakers trying to use Chinese slang.

Jeff, a visiting US scholar and English teacher at a local university, posted a video to YouTube of young people flocking into the recent music festival in Chaoyang Park. Soon, someone left the comment in Chinese: *Shafa, Zhongguo niubi!*, which literally means, "Sofa, China is cow vagina!"

Having stayed in Beijing for more than two years, Jeff knows what *niubi* means. Though not necessarily appropriate for polite company, it's a word used to describe something that's really good or really bad. But he didn't understand the usage of *shafa* — sofa.

I told him that it's used by people who are the first to comment on a video or story on the Internet. As in, "I got here first!"

"But why?" Jeff asked.

In a Chinese forum or BBS, the topic starter is usually the owner of the house, *louzhu*. The first person who enters and comments in the house then gets the sofa.

A *bandeng*, wooden bench, is given to the second commenter.

Jeff's enthusiasm in Chinese led him to further inquiries. BS — for *bishi* — means "you suck." Gaisi means "holy crap."

"Slang in any language is fun, and I got a little overly obsessed about it, especially the dirty words," Jeff said.

"I know some Americans who like to say *laduzi* instead of diarrhea in English," he said.

The similarities between Chinese and English are interesting when looked at through trash talk. "Are you blind?," for instance, finds its equivalent in the Chinese phrase, *Nixiaya*?

When you get down to it, to learn a language, it's surely helpful and necessary to attend class. But the language you hear on the street is a lot more dynamic and interesting. Jeff suggested that for those learning Chinese, it's helpful to make friends with locals and scour local blogs.

Though the language you learn in a bar or cafe may not make much sense at first, it'll help you understand the culture that you're in, Jeff said.



Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Dork Bowels

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

Obviously, this photo was taken at the meat counter of the grocery store. Judging from the signs at the back and with a leap of logic, we learn that "dork bowels" are some kind of Australian meat — I've heard things are done differently "down under" — or Kerchin beef, which comes from Inner Mongolia. Yummy. Really appetizing.

If you are a squeamish eater, well, frankly, China is probably not the place for you. Nothing is wasted here — from the head of the chicken to the feet. OK, you can spit out the beak!

The translation of the first character on this sign is a simple spelling error. *Zhu* does not mean the nerd with the thick glasses who you knew in 6th grade. You know, the one who made a cool fortune in the IT industry, grew up to be extraordinarily handsome, still single, and is now served up in the meat department. The sign should read "pork" — and that means "pig" for all you cuisine elitists.

The next character is *nei* (inner), which has one "person" (*ren*) going in the "door" (*men*). It is different than "meat" (*rou*), which has two people coming in the door since it is very hospitable to serve up the best meat for your guests. You can



see "meat" on the sign to the left of Australia: *Aozhou rou lei* (Australian meat varieties).

The last character is *zang*, which on its own means "dirty, filthy, foul"; *neizang*, then, means "internal organs." Yummy. Really appetizing. Dinner is served, nothing is wasted.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Formalizing experimental art would detract from its purpose.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): I'm now going to discuss a very interesting grammatical phenomenon. At first glance, I felt this might be wrong. As "to detract" is a transitive verb, it should be: Formalizing experimental art would detract it from its purpose. Just as we have such examples as: The ugly frame detracts from the beauty of the picture. However, to detract can also be an intransitive verb. For instance, Modernizing the building's facade would enhance rather than detract from the character of the neighborhood. So, in this case, the sample sentence is right.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): I think it's great to improve vocabulary, to take a step up from elementary level "big" to intermediate "large" and then to advanced (or advanced colloquial) "ginormous"! Just, maybe, it's best to try out the new words in small doses. For example, check out the use of big words in this essay's conclusion (which I have corrected for more clarity): "All in all, both from ethical and practical perspectives, I think choosing other more humanitarian and accurate ways to pay for the cost of university." Huh?

2. The film festival is set to open with 160 films showing in 20 cinemas.

ZSD: In this sentence, it is not right to say "showing." It should be: The film festival is set to open with 160 films shown in 20 cinemas. I remember that we have already discussed this question. In colloquial English, it is all right to say "with 160 films showing," just like: Where is the new movie showing? However, it is not allowed for professional writing. Yet, I find that with the verb "to run," it is accepted to say: Somerset Maugham has plays running (or staged) simultaneously in New York and in London.

TBZ: It is difficult to differentiate the use of colloquialisms with correct standard English, especially with spoken English falling all around us — in the movies, in advertisements and in non-standard English writing, such as text messaging, some blogs, and, in fact, I've seen "wanna" used as a real word in an English textbook! Dunno. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that all things tend toward chaos, so perhaps the same is true of language?

3. She was appointed to go negotiate the introduction of samba dance in China.

ZSD: Though it is permissible in colloquial English to say "to go negotiate," I think it is not acceptable for standard writing, journalistic or academic. Also incorrect is: People might be convinced to come see a theater performance. The right way to say it is: She was appointed to go and negotiate the introduction of samba dance in China. People might be convinced to come and see a theater performance. When the verb "to go" is combined with another verb, for instance in sports writing, it is usually expressed this way: The high jumper went hurtling over the bar with a world record-breaking performance.

TBZ: Again, there is a need to step up the language. Instead of falling to the level of a mediocre English teacher's level, get to reading some advanced-level stuff in your area of interest. Actively read it in order to learn how to, first, write to imitate it and then, ultimately, to create your own work.

Source Code (2011)

Movie of the week

Critics say *Source Code* is a mediocre mystery about reviving a dead girl. But there may be more to this thriller in disguise than can be gleaned at first glance. The movie constantly asks new questions and makes viewers rethink the moral foundations of happiness and the reasons why bad things continue to happen in our world.

Synopsis

Colter Stevens, a US Army helicopter pilot whose last memory is flying in Afghanistan, wakes up on a commuter train having assumed the identity of another man. Eight minutes later, the train explodes and Stevens finds himself in a capsule, where a man named Goodwin tells him he has to return and relive the scene to learn who the bomber is. He is sent back to relive the experience as part of a project that implants

one person's consciousness into another person during the last 8 minutes of his or her life.

Scene 1

(Stevens wakes up and finds himself in a capsule.)

Goodwin (G): Did you find the bomb?

Captain Stevens (S): Yes. There is a strange hydraulic fluid all over the floor.

G: It's not a concern, captain. Would you tell me about the bomb?

S: Who is that man? I saw a guy with a crutch on my monitor. He looks like he is in charge; I want to talk to him.

G: That's irrelevant, captain.

S: I want to talk to your commanding officer!

G: You can talk to him upon completion of your mission.

S: My mission is in Afghanistan, where my unit is. I flew two goddamn missions yesterday.

G: You've been with us for two months. Did you ID the bomber?

S: No, where is my unit? And under whose charge is this simulation?

G: Captain, this is not a simulation. Lives are depending on you.

S: What lives?

G: What do you remember about the bomb? Tell me about the detonator.

S: No, what lives, what are you talking about? I need to be briefed (1)!

(Goodwin turns to his commanding officer.)

G: Sir, I need to give him something.

Officer: That's fine, go ahead.

G: At 7:48 this morning, a bomb exploded on a commuter train outside of Chicago, killing everyone on board, and that's the train you've been on.

S: No, I am right here, you are talking to me right now!

G: A man named Shawn Fentress was on that train. He, in a sense, is now you. Every second spent explaining things puts more innocent civilians at risk.



S: This makes no sense.

G: The train explosion was the first attack of a series. There are going to be more. Now, did you find the bomb?

S: In the restroom, ventilation-panel above the sink, cell phone-detonator. Are we done?

G: Eh, no no. But that's good, that's very good, captain. Our records show that 1,812 calls ended at the moment of the explosion. Fifty-two of those calls were received by a cell tower nearby and reversed to the train. One of those calls was made by our bomber. Do you remember a freight train passing by just before the explosion?

S: Yes.

G: The explosion was timed to engulf (2) the passing freight train, which means the bomber had been watching both trains when the call was made. Fifty-two callers, one of which is our bomber. I want you to concentrate on the passengers in your car. Get to know them, narrow the suspect pool. Look for ones who seem quiet or withdrawn, who seem nervous. As always, you have eight minutes.

S: eight minutes, and I am blown up (3) again?

G: Yes. I need you to discipline yourself on this next path. Perform only the task that we assign you. Everything else is irrelevant.

Scene 2

Christina (C): I took your advice. It

was a very good advice. You are kind of quiet today?

S: I got a lot on my mind. That's very kind of you. You're very decent.

C: Thank you.

S: And real.

Train conductor (T): Ticket!

S: How is everything today?

C: It's good.

S: Anything extraordinary?

C: Um, no.

S: I mean behavior on the train. Does anything or anyone seem strange to you?

C: You look strange.

(S looks at Christina.)

S: How about you, does anybody look suspicious?

C: Are you drunk or something?

S: Come here. Come for a second. Come on. Just think of it as a game.

C: A game? They are all so utterly normal, Shawn. That's what so terrifying about them. Maybe they are a team network. The sleeping giant coached (4) the minister and the comedian. Don't



forget the college kiddy, he is expendable. But they are all controlled by the conductor, standing there like a king and demanding tickets.

S: You are funny. What about that guy?

C: Deposition.

S: And the woman sitting across him?

C: Hair appointment every Monday, you know this. You've talked to these people more than I have.

S: Right. And the guy behind her?

He's late for an audition, right?

C: Is teaching not stimulating for you anymore, Sherlock?

Scene 3

(S realized he was actually dead.)

S: Am I dead? A radio listing says that I died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, and my father receiving a medal for me.

G: Your condition is not the issue here. You need to focus on the train attack. Everything else is irrelevant.

S: News reports saying I am dead are irrelevant?

G: Until the person or persons who blew up the train are in custody (5) ... Yes.

S: Goodwin. One soldier to another. Am I dead?

G: Part of your brain remains activated.

S: What about the rest of me? I can see my hands and feet. They still move.

G: They're in manifestation. They're just a way of making sense of all this.

S: So ... what are you saying? Are you saying that I am imagining this? I'm imagining that I'm still alive? That I'm in this capsule?

G: Captain, what just happened?

S: Can I ask you a question?

G: The capsule is a manifestation as well.

S: Where am I?

G: That's classified.

Vocabulary

- 1. to be briefed:** to be given preparatory information
- 2. engulf:** to swallow completely
- 3. blow up:** to explode
- 4. coach:** to train or direct
- 5. to be in custody:** to have been apprehended

(By Huang Daohen)